Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Little Voyagers **Enrollment:** 60 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51052

Street: 2700 Westown Pkwy Suite 140 **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2700 Westown Pkwy Suite 140, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Erin Davis **Phone Number:** 515-447-8097

On-Site Supervisor(s): Stacey Hull and Samantha Hildebrand **E-Mail:** littlevoyagersia@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-28-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-24-2022

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 02-01-2023

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	24	14	36	16	90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-29-2023

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 6/28/23. The owner/director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Little Voyagers is a child care program located in West Des Moines, IA that was given permission to open on 5/1/20. This center is a new center under a new name (previously The Learning Loft) and new location (previously located in Urbandale, IA). The center serves children six weeks in age through 12 years in age. Staff use the learning curriculum Learning Every Day. There are a total of five classrooms.

The owner/director of the program is Erin Davis. Erin has her AA degree in Early Childhood Education and has a number of years' worth of experience working in child care. Stacey Hull and Stacia Stoeckel are the on-site supervisors at this center. Both individuals meet the qualifications as on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs (infants), picking up toys, having sunscreen applied, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms, playing on the playground, and doing art projects. Staff were involved in all child activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director has many years of experience working in child care. The director continues to be organized.

There are many tenured staff that work at this center. The owner stated she had a good group working for her.

Children seemed content and engaged in all of the activities presented to them. Good staff redirection was observed and heard.

Staff reportedly work well together.

The center uses the Bright Wheels and DoJo apps for better communication with parents.

The center is pursuing IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

More internal painting is planned for this August.

The center purchased a new van for transporting children to school and for field trips.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.4(3)a: Postings are required for: The certificate of license. Notice of exposure to communicable disease. Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status. All postings shall be conspicuously placed at main entrance of center.
The center had an older expired license posted.

109.10(9): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are: In the center. In the outdoor play area. On field trips.
All first-aid kits should be labeled. The van first-aid kit was not labeled.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
The center is past due for radon testing.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes. Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Diapering procedures were not posted in the big, main restroom's diapering table.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Honey Nut Cheerios are not credible per CACFP guidelines based on the serving size to sugar ratio.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is past due as it was due in 1/2023. In 3/2023, radon testing changed where if center are below the 4.0 cutoff in all classrooms, testing can move to every five years so long as levels always remain below 4.0. If levels are 4.0 or higher, a mitigation plan is needed, retesting, and the center would move back to needing to test at least temporarily to every two years. At the testing in 1/2023, only one classroom was tested.

The furnace inspection was last completed 5/22/23.

The CACFP smart phone food app was shared with the owner/director.

The center has new a van for transporting children to school and for field trips. Children Kindergarten and older are eligible for field trips.

IQ4K and I - Power were again discussed at the visit.

A current licensing certificate was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

This consultant discussed reviewing relocation places with the owner/director as it pertains to the center's Emergency Preparedness written plans. A current list of items that could be included in the Emergency Preparedness kit were emailed after the visit concluded. It is also recommended this kit be stored in a suitcase that has wheels.

It was noted that one child file reviewed needed to have a hospital preference listed.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.