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

Name of Center: Ashworth Learning Center **Enrollment:** 83 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51448

Street: 5300 Ashworth Road **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5300 Ashworth RD, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Kerri Clark **Phone Number:** 515-481-5437

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brenna Palmer **E-Mail:** kerri@ashworth.center

Date(s) of Visit: 08-01-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-01-2023

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	41	17	56	0	114
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-01-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 8/1/23. The director and the on-site supervisor were both 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.

Ashworth Learning Center is a newer center located in West Des Moines, IA that was given permission to open on 8/9/21. The center is located within a wing of the Ashworth Road Baptist Church on the main and lower levels of the building. The center serves children six weeks in age through five years in age using the Frog Street Learning Curriculum. There are a total of eight classrooms. Capacity of the main level classrooms in order are 22, 8, 17 on one side and then 9, 9, and 15 on the other side. The lower level classrooms have a capacity of 24 and 10.

The center is owned by the church. The center is open Monday - Friday and year-round. The center director is Kerri Clark. Kerri has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working in child care. Brenna Palmer is the on-site supervisor. Brenda meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor based on her years of experience and professional development training.

During the visit, children were observed being held while being bottle fed, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms, participating in a large group story activity facilitated by staff, playing on the playground areas, having sunscreen applied, and washing their hands. Staff were engaged with children and all child activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment has remained steady over the past year.

The center uses an electronic app (Bright Wheels) for daily sheets and another form of communication with parents.

There is a secure entrance into the center. There are also security cameras in classrooms.

The director and on-site supervisor are organized and have past experience working in child care.

The center was very clean.

The director feels she has a good staff with a good mix of experience. Staff reportedly work well with each other and communication between staff is good. Staff are supportive of each other.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The center has renovated their playground area with new equipment and surfacing.

The center participates in CACFP.

The center utilizes their nurse consultant and CCR&R consultant as needed.

The center has good community supports.

Staff stated they appreciate the director and her openness with them and leadership.

The center is working on their IQ4K which is voluntary program based on best practice.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
There were several files that needed current dates showing their were updated annually. A solution to this issue was discussed when files were reviewed.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2 children were missing current physicals.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
The new fence will need to have the bolts cut and then maybe capped so that no more than two threads are exposed. This was along where the fence corners come together and the gates.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 10/28/21 - 11/1/21. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The furnace and fuel burning appliances are generally serviced two times a year and the last invoice on file was from 12/16/22.

The center is not currently doing field trips. If they do so in the future, they will be walking field trips around the surrounding area or they may contact with the school district to take a bus for field trips not within walking distance. The center will bring in presenters for children.

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

This consultant's phone number will need to be changed to his current number in the center's Emergency Preparedness written plan.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The center sent in their application along with payment on 7/13/23.

*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.