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

Name of Center: Hope West Des Moines Children's Center **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 35671

Street: 925 Jordan Creek Parkway **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 925 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Connie Keller **Phone Number:** 515-422-9153

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kerri Gearhart and Danielle Kelly **E-Mail:** connie.keller@hopewdm.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-20-2023

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:** 06-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-13-2022

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing. The City of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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

Financial Type: Profit X 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*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	36	23	28		87
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-21-2023

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 6/20/23. The director was present throughout the visit. The director's supervisor was present for a portion of this 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.

Hope West Des Moines Children's Center (formerly known as Lutheran Church of Hope Daycare) is a center that opened on 6/24/11 within Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. Hope West Des Moines Preschool (formerly known as New Horizons Preschool) is also located within the church. The center is overseen by a Church Board. Connie Keller is the director of this program as of 9/2022. Connie has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and also has an Early Childhood Endorsement. Connie also has a current teaching license in Early Childhood. Kerri Gearhart and Danielle Kelly are the on-site supervisors and meet the qualifications for their positions based on education, experience, and/or professional development training completed.

The center serves children six weeks in age to five years in age. The center is using seven classrooms (approved for eight). The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum and Ages and Stages in their teaching of children, but will be switching to Iowa Early Learning Standards (IELS) in the near future.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities that included napping in cribs, being held while bottle fed, free choice play at the different learning stations within classrooms, and washing their hands. Staff were engaged with all children and their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is very clean, bright, and well-decorated. The church/center also has their own janitorial staff.

Carpets are being shampooed ever other week in all classrooms (quarterly is National standards).

The center classrooms sends out a monthly newsletter to parents. The center also uses the Bright Wheels app for forms, checklists, communication with parents, etc.

The center has a washer and dryer on site as well as a commercial dishwasher within the church that can be used as needed.

The center uses a walkie-talkie system between classrooms and areas used by the center.

Ratios in the infant room are kept at one staff to every three children which goes above minimal state regulations of one staff to every four infants.

The center has access to a large indoor gym area that they can use for bad weather days.

The center has a preschool component.

The director has her NAC credentials. The director also has a current teaching license.

The director believes the center has a good group of staff who work well together and that the center has a good working relationship with other church personnel as a whole.

There is a food service program within the church/center that now provides lunches for the center.

There is a camera system in place.

Staff and children files were nicely organized.

Enrollment remains steady.

There is a staff recognition program in place.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: All children enrolled, regardless of age, need to have a doctor and a dentist listed. Information needed is the name, phone number, and address for the doctor and the dentist.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one epipen that was roughly five months expired. A new epipen is needed now.

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.
The actual first-aid backpacks should also be labeled.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
September 2022 fire and tornado drills were missed. IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS WAS WHEN THERE WAS A DIRECTOR CHANGE.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children.
There was a dangling cord in one of the three year old rooms that needs to be more securely fastened to the wall and/or tucked behind shelving so not accessible to children.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
WEIGHTED SLEEP SACKS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
One one of the days where breakfast items were served for lunch, a vegetable was missing.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of

disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
All infant bottles should be labeled with the child's name or initials or color coded.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It was noted previously that the center does not go on field trips other than walking field trips on campus. The center also brings in agencies for presentations to children.

Radon testing was last completed 6/23/21 - 6/24/21. Because all classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff, testing can move to at least every five years. If radon testing comes back 4.0 or higher in classrooms at the next testing, retesting will be needed as well as a mitigation plan, and then the center will also move back to testing at least temporarily to every two years.

The current boiler inspection expires in 5/2024.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

A thermometer is needed in the refrigerator of the 10 - 18 month old room.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.