Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lionheart Early Learning

Provider No.: 52213

Address: 2717 Northgate DR, Iowa City, IA, 52245

County: Johnson

Director's Name: Emily Brandenburg

On-Site Supervisor: Alex Daniels

Phone Number: 3193378870

E-Mail: ebrandenburg@pecepmail.com
adaniels@lionheartkids.net

HHS Visit Date: 08/28/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/28/2026

Comments: Does comply.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	52	43	40	36	171
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

This worker arrived at Lionheart Early Learning - 52213 on 9/11/2026 for an annual visit. The center is for profit. The center is located inside of a commercial building. The center utilizes 10 classrooms. The center also has a kitchen, office and staff break room. The center's fire inspection was completed on 5/28/26. The center is open year-around Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 6:00pm. The center provides care for infants to school aged children. The center's current enrollment is 103.

The director is Emily Brandenburg. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Leadership. She started in 8/2015.

The on-site supervisor is Alex Daniels. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with Endorsements in Early Childhood Special Education and Kindergarten/PreK. She started in 8/2015.

Safe/Sanitary and Hazard Free:
On the date of my visit the center was safe, sanitary and hazard free. The center's outdoor play environment was safe, sanitary and hazard free. Staff and children did follow hand washing procedures. Staff did know how to appropriately clean, sanitize and disinfect. Staff did follow medication management procedures. Staff did follow diaper changing procedures. Staff did follow safe sleep procedures.

Interactions:
The center staff did provide careful supervision and they were in ratio. Interactions observed included: outdoor play time, center play, diaper changes, hand washing, lunch time and nap. The center's curriculum is Learning Beyond Paper and Second Step. The center does offer transportation. The center does offer field trips. Examples include museums, library,

splash pads and parks.

Nutrition:
The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. The center ensures that each child is served a full, nutritionally balanced meal/snack as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff did ensure sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage were followed.

Administrative Duties:
All required postings were displayed on the date of my visit. Staff files and child files were in full compliance on the date of my visit. The licensing notebook showed that required drills, checklists and inspections were completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

-The center was awarded accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission.
-The center has won Locals Love Us 2018-2026.
-The center has done an excellent job of maintaining staff.
-The center participates in TEACH and WAGES.
-The center works with Child Care Aware® of America to provide quality child care for military families.
-The center offers Tippy Toes, Sports Tortes and four additional enrichment programs through Premier.
-The center utilizes ProCare for parental communication and billing.
-Staff ensure that the center is clean.
-Staff were actively engaged with the children throughout the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

The center was in full compliance on the date of my visit.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon the annual visit, it is recommended that this center remain in full licensing status. If citations are issued, please ensure that they are corrected as soon as possible.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to visit your center. I encourage all centers to work with the following agencies:
-Iowa Care Resource & Referral: https://www.iowaccrr.org/child-care-providers/centers-preschools/
-Iowa Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci
-Child Care Collaborative of Iowa: https://midsioux.org/programs-services/children-and-families/ccci/

The director is reminded to email HHS current:
-Emergency Preparedness Plans
-Employee/Staff Handbook
-Family/Parent Handbook
-Fire Inspections
-Floor Plans: Indicating room descriptions and dimensions, including location of windows, doors, toilets and sinks.

The director is encouraged to review and have all staff review:
-The center's Child Care Center Evaluation and Recommendation for License:
https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs_titan_public/ChildCare/ComplianceReport
-Iowa Code 109 (Date 7/2026): https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/chapter/441.109.pdf
-Comm. 204 (Date 7/2025): Comm. 204, Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures

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Date: 10/19/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.