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

Name of Center: Loving Hands Nursery **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30257

Street: 201 E Nebraska St **City:** Algona Iowa **Zip** 50511 **County:** Kossuth

Mailing Address: PO Box 353, Algona, IA, 50511

Director's Name: Ashley Grindberg **Phone Number:** 515-395-2273

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** lovinghandsnursery@netamumail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-27-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-09-2020

Comments :

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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	13		14	18	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-02-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Loving Hands Nursery on 09-27-23 where I met with center director Ashley Grindberg. Ashley took over the director position with the start of the 2023 school year and is well qualified for the position with a masters degree in school counseling and prior experience working with children in various capacities. The program is operated as a short term respite service 3 days a week for 2.5 hours during the school year and is fully funded by grants so that there is no cost to the families that attend. The program is located in the Algona First United Methodist Church but is operated independently of the church under a separate board of directors. There are currently 30 children enrolled in the program served by 6 staff and volunteers. The center does establish a daily limit based on capacity limitations on a first come first served basis. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remain the same as in prior visits. The physical facilities were observed to be clean and in good repair. The program makes use of three classrooms but the third room is used more for over-flow with older preschool and school age children when needed and was not in use on the day of my visit. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a limited view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The two main programming rooms have doors that provide direct secondary egress to the outdoors. Both exits opened easily and freely and were free of obstruction. Each room has a sink in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. The two main classrooms have a pass-through bathroom, and diaper changing stations so that children do not need to leave the room.

Each room is divided into activity centers through the use of furnishings, low shelves, and play structures so that they provide the children with room to play while not creating any blind areas. A good variety of toys and materials were present in each room that were appropriate to the ages of the children present and in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted on a parent notice board near the main entry. The planned curriculum themes for September included "Back to school", "Family and Friends", and "Emotions". Good interactions were observed with the staff in the infant room playing with the children and attending to their needs providing feeding and diapering as needed. In the preschool age room the staff were engaged with the children with one teacher reading a book to a group of children, and another engaged in a small group table activity. All staff used positive behavior management techniques with the children that included recognition of positive behavior, redirection, and reminders.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and staff did follow the established procedures. Good hand washing practices were observed with the staff not only ensuring that the children washed their hands but that they did so in an effective manner. The center did not have any children taking any prescription medications and typically does not administer medications but does have policies in place should it be needed in the future. Allergy plans were in place for those children with identified allergies. First aid kits were present in the classrooms and were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. There were no children taking a nap at the time of the visit but the center does have cribs and bedding materials, and is aware of safe sleep requirements. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff waiting for children to be out of the area before using chemical cleaners, and following a pre-cleaning step prior to using sanitizing and disinfecting agents. Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible

to children.

The center does not have a traditional playground but an interior court yard is available for outdoor play and the limited hours of operation also reduce the need for a dedicated outdoor play area. The outdoor play area does not have any climbing structures but other toys are taken out for the children to play with if needed. The courtyard is fully enclosed by the building. Shade is provided by the building.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Good food storage practices were observed with all food items being in sealed containers. I was able to observe the snack service in the infant room. Good food service practices were in place with staff washing their hands and wearing gloves prior to handling of any food or food service items. The snack provided included cheerios cereal, and milk. The staff did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the table.

Administrative records were reviewed and all required notices were posted on a bulletin board that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. A review of child files found all to contain all required documentation though it is noted that the program is still within the first 30 days of operation and working to obtain physicals for all children. A review of staff files found them to contain all required information. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required certifications.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has participated in the QRS program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and while that certification has expired is looking at the option of continuing to participate in the revised program, IQ4K.

The center had a significant change with a new director, and some staff but has continued to maintain a strong program.

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

None Cited

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.