

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

Name of Center: Loud House Learning Center **Enrollment:** 57 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 52455

Street: 204 G Avenue **City:** Grundy Center **Iowa Zip:** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 204 G Avenue, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Brandy Hippen **Phone Number:** 319-505-7946

On-Site Supervisor(s): Keri & Andy Despard (owners) **E-Mail:** loudhouselearningcenter@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-03-2024, 05-03-2024, 06-21-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-06-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-05-2021

Comments : Confirmation was received from the Fire Marshal that the Fire Inspection Certificate issued under the previous ownership would remain in effect until it expires and a renewed inspection is conducted in November 2024.

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

Financial Type: X **Profit** **Non-Profit** **NA**

Accreditation: **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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>
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LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	22	7	16	20	65
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 03-11-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury
 Date: 06-25-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Unannounced visit were made to the center on 04-03-24, 05-03-24, and 06-21-24 where I met with the center director Brandy Hippen. It is noted that while this is the initial licensing for the center the program has been in operation under different ownership as the Bottles Two Backpacks childcare center. The change in ownership was made in a manner so as not to disrupt the provision of services to the community and families that make use of the facility. The center is now operated as a for profit program under the ownership of Keri and Andy Despard. As noted Brandy Hippen is the center director and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early child care and education. The program is located in a building that was previously administration offices for a church but which have been renovated for child care. The center provides full range programming for infants through school age children. There are currently 57 children enrolled in the center served by 12 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The center makes use of classrooms on two levels. Each room has multiple exits to the main access corridors but none have direct egress to the outdoors. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. The upper ground floor level serves infants and two year old children. The younger infants are in a space with two rooms connected by a large archway opening that can be closed off using a mobile barrier to create separate spaces. The older infants and two year children are in two rooms connected by a short hallway that also provides access to restroom facilities. Additional restrooms are located off the main corridor, and the director's office. The preschool and school age children are located on the lower basement level. There are four rooms with two rooms on each side of the main access corridor. The school age children make use of two rooms connected by an intervening doorway, and the preschool age children make use of two rooms connected by a short hallway with a mobile gate barrier. There are no restrooms located on the lower level and as a result children must be escorted to the restrooms as needed. While the center has programming space to allow for a total of 65 children due to the limitations of available restrooms no more than 45 children over 2 years of age can be present at the center at any given time. During the visits several maintenance issues were observed and those that presented an immediate safety concern were corrected by the time of the final visit. Windows are present in all classrooms with the upper floor windows providing ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. In lower level classrooms the windows are located along the upper sill plate in recessed window wells that provide limited light, no view, and while they can be opened for ventilation would be difficult to reach and likely are not used for the purpose. Classrooms are divided into activity centers that are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

The available activity centers include options such as reading, art/crafts, and large small manipulatives in all classrooms and increase to include options of dramatic play, group learning, music/movement, and media for older age groups. Over the course of the visits the center had removed and replaced some of the equipment that had served its useful life. The center is continuing to look to acquire additional materials, decorate, and reorganize rooms. The preschool and school age classes that make use of two rooms operate with an approach of having one room for more cognitive activities such as group learning, and the other with more active center play activities. Each room had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. During the visits staff were observed to be engaged with the children attending to their needs and presenting activities. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age on each visit. Staff were observed to generally use positive behavior management techniques during the visit with speaking in calm tones, using routines and reminders of

expected behavior, and redirecting the children as needed.

The center does have established health and safety policies and procedures but some practices do need to be reviewed. One issue that was observed during a visit was during the morning drop off a parent sent a child in to the center/classroom unaccompanied. The child attempted to sneak into the classroom as a practical joke. The center does need to review with parents the requirement to accompany children to their assigned classrooms and ensure that staff have acknowledged accepting responsibility for the children. Another issue that was observed was with the preschool room where the center uses a mobile gate to separate the two connecting rooms staff stepped over the gate rather than opening or moving it. This does create a significant risk for staff tripping and falling on a child, or dropping something on a child. When mobile barriers are used staff must use the designated gate system rather than stepping over the barrier. I was able to observe several diaper changes between the visits and during the initial visit the staff did not follow the posted procedures with not degloving between soiled and clean items, not washing the infant's hands, and not following the label directions when using disinfectant products. These concerns were reviewed and proper procedures were followed on subsequent visits. Similarly staff were observed to be lap feeding infants under 6 months of age in a reclined position during the initial visit. It was reviewed that infants under 6 months of age must be fed in an upright position and staff were observed to follow those requirements on subsequent visits. Good safe sleep practices were observed during the visits for children under 1 year of age. For children in the preschool room illumination and supervision during nap time was an issue at the time of the last visit. As noted the room has windows but limited natural illumination. With the lights turned off the room was excessively dark, and in addition the teacher was in the other classroom cleaning up such that there was no staff in the room with the napping the children. It was reviewed that illumination must be maintained such that staff can observe a child from any point in the room and be able to determine if that child is in distress and need of assistance. Additionally an individual coming from a brightly lit hallway should not have a period of momentary blindness while waiting for their eyes to adjust. It was also reviewed that staff must be in the classroom whenever children are present in the room. Good storage practices for medications, chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were observed. First aid kits are present in the center and contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.

The center does have a large playground space with a variety of equipment including a riding track, climbing structures, sandbox, and deck. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures and a good depth of material was observed. Some of the fall surfacing has been displaced around the riding track which does create a limited tripping hazard and material either needs to be raked back into place, added, or a high visibility paint applied to the edge to clearly denote the transition point. During the initial visit the climbing structure was observed to have an elevated crawling tunnel that was damaged and needed to be replaced. By the time of the follow-up visits the center had removed that structure and replaced it with netting covers. While those were adapted materials that were not sold as replacement parts by the manufacturer they were installed in a manner that they did not present any observed safety concerns. Shade is provided by the building and mature trees. The space is fully enclosed by chain link fencing which was observed to be in good repair.

The center does have a kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. Good food storage and handling practices were observed in the kitchen with items being placed in sealed containers after being opened, and staff washing their hands and wearing food service gloves. Food storage in classrooms does need to be reviewed as during one visit the thermometer in the infant room identified a temperature of 45 deg. F. It was reviewed that cold holding temperatures need to be maintained between 32-40 deg. F. with a maximum allowable limit of 42 degrees. It was reviewed that the center needed to monitor the unit and may need to either adjust the settings or replace the unit to maintain proper temperatures. A copy of the planned menu was present and generally identified a good variety of nutritious options but some snack options would not be credible. This included Rice Krispie Treat bars, Oreo cookies, and brownies. While the center may not be participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for reimbursement those requirements must be followed. While CACFP guidelines do allow for providing non-credible snack options for special occasions such as birthdays or holidays these are not allowed a regular menu options. Additionally it was noted that the morning snack provided the children with one food option and water. CACFP guidelines require two credible options and while water should always be made available it cannot be counted as credible food option. If the center wishes to use a beverage as a component options of 100% juice or milk can be provided.

In reviewing administrative records the required notices for the Permission To Open, and No Smoking were present but the notices for Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and Consultant Contact were not. Copies of those notices were sent to the center. In reviewing child files the center did have all parents complete new enrollment forms when ownership of the center was transferred. The center is also working to obtain renewed physicals for the children. A random selection of 20 files were reviewed and of those 5 needed either an initial or renewed physical. In addition the center needs to obtain allergy plans for children that have diagnosed or identified allergies. It was reviewed that plans are required for all allergies including food, medication, and environmental. Sample plan forms were provided the center. In reviewing staff files the center is again working to update all files. The center had renewed the Iowa SING checks for all employees though two were considered incomplete as they needed a record check evaluation. The center had also resubmitted all FBI Fingerprint background checks for all staff. Updated physicals were also needed for all staff. Brandy reported that the center had completed fire and tornado drills but had not logged those drills. It was reviewed that documentation of those drills must be maintained otherwise they are assumed to not have been done. All other required inspection logs and certificates were current and available. The center does intend to use the policy handbook that had been developed by the Bottles Two

Backpacks program but is working to update elements such as names, fees.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The new owners have been very active in addressing concerns that have been identified with regard to maintenance, and operation of the center. This includes not only those elements that were priorities for their philosophy and vision regarding child care, but also those that were identified as licensing concerns which were corrected by the time of subsequent visits.

The center has placed a strong focus on curriculum development and implementation.

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

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for:Mandatory reporter requirements.Notice of availability of handbook.Program activities.These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public.

-- Posting was not present.

109.4(5): Child Care Centers and Preschool Licensing Standards and Procedures shall be available in the center and a notice stating a copy is available for review. Contact information of the child care consultant shall be included in the notice.

-- Posting was not present.

109.8(2)e: At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting.If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained.Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained.

-- Children were observed to be in a classroom napping while the teacher was in another room where they did not have direct line of sight and/or sound. Additionally the illumination in the room was insufficient to allow the staff to observe the children and determine if they were in distress.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.

-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

-- Number not in compliance: 6

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

-- Number not in compliance: 5

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.

-- Documentation of emergency drills was not maintained as required.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

-- Non-credible food items need to be removed from the menu. Snacks must include 2 credible food options and while water should always be available cannot be counted as a credible food option.

109.9(2)g: Any child with allergies, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.

-- Allergy plans were not present for all diagnosed allergies.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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: While the center has programming space to allow for a total of 65 children due to the limitations of available restrooms no more than 45 children over 2 years of age can be present at the center at any given time.

*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.