Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Arc of East Central Iowa-Daycare Enrichment

Provider No.: 25054

Address: 680 2nd St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

County: Linn

Director's Name: Lauren Brandt

On-Site Supervisor: Allyson Anderson

Phone Number: 3193650487

E-Mail: lbrandt@arceci.org

HHS Visit Date: 06/23/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/16/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			10	78	88
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The Arc of East Central Iowa (ECI) is a non-profit program that has been in operation for many years. The inclusive program provides support needs for those children who have developmental and physical disabilities. The Arc of ECI operates the following two licensed childcare programs in the community: The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI -Summer Day. This license visit and report specifically pertain to The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment. The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment operates year-round Monday through Friday 7:00am-6:00pm. Total enrolled and attending participants were reported to be 25 on 6/23/2026.

Multi-site director of The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI -Summer Day is Lauren Brandt. Ms. Brandt has qualified for the director role since December of 2025. Ms. Brandt has an AA degree in Human Services, has experience working with children and participates in professional development. The specific on-site supervisor (OSS) for The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment is Allyson Anderson. Ms. Anderson has qualified for the OSS role since June of 2026. Ms. Anderson has a BA degree in Social and Criminal Justice and Psychology. Ms. Anderson has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 6/23/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in room 109 and room 111. The building is ADA accessible and has elopement safeguards in various areas. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. The program has some access to room 112 and an outdoor play area. Kitchen and food storage areas are organized and sanitary. Since the last review, the kitchen was able to obtain 2 new ovens. On 6/23/2026, areas of study included "Ooey Gooey". An array of materials and activities (e.g. crafts, puzzles, games, building items) were available. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing those present to have many choices in the day's experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, restroom and drink breaks) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming

and cooperative play environment. On 6/23/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive behavior interventions when needed and engaged in programming with those in attendance. Participants appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of Arc of ECI "...empowers individuals with disabilities and their families to engage in lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work, play, and advocate with full dignity and inclusion in their communities..."

The Arc of ECI has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their programs and services: https://arceci.org/. The program also sponsors a social media site.

Since the last review, there has been a change in management which includes a new director and new OSS. The new management (e.g. Ms. Brandt, Ms. Anderson, board, administrative persons) team is working to familiarize themselves with licensing rules, licensing guidelines and their own program's policies and procedures. The management team is working to establish systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner.

On 6/23/2026, The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment was found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining a family-program information area, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family-community programming activities. Family-community events have and do include Touch-A-Truck, softball games at the park, summer in the square concert, Art Without Limit: Celebration Gala and upcoming Curl Jam Event. The Arc of ECI curriculum includes staff inspired ideas, on-site guest speaker events, off-site field trip adventures (e.g. Palo Beach, local library, splash pads, WickiUp Hill, Greene Square Park Recreation events, bowling, mini golf, DQ, Magic Show experience), neighborhood walks, outdoor learning, scavenger hunts, large gross motor individual and group activities, sensory enjoyment, enrichment opportunities, and cooking experiences.

The Arc of ECI continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Management discussed how their team of staff continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Management acknowledged how their program operates under a board of directors and how this program is located in a building that also houses The Arc of ECI administrative team. Management further acknowledged how their board and administrative team help ensure the program areas are sanitary and hazard free each day.

The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI -Summer Day continue to have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. These programs have successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, incidents of relocation, technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and air quality alerts (2023, 2025, 2026).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted.

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Licensing supports continuing to seek funding opportunities as they become available (e.g. Growing Iowa Funding https://www.iowaccrr.org/child-care-providers/iowa-child-care-funding-opportunities/) to improve quality of programming at The Arc of ECI including adding a swing gate with latch panel to the fence in order to allow participants to easily use the program's tandem bikes and for replacement and/or repairs to the bike's tires.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

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Licensing discussed with management the oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Management acknowledged how their entire team of staff completed Mandt Training and training on de-escalation strategies. Management discussed how staff have access to walk-talkies to ask for assistance or a break when needed. Management talked about being present in the areas with participants and staff in order to provide feedback and encourage good staff practices. Management also voiced having a really great team of staff who know their participants well which makes it easier to de-escalate.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 07/29/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.