Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Hope West Des Moines Children's Center

Provider No.: 35671

Address: 925 Jordan Creek PKWY, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Connie Keller

On-Site Supervisor: Kerri Gearhart and Danielle Kelly

Phone Number: 5154229153

E-Mail: connie.keller@hopewdm.org

HHS Visit Date:

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/25/2025

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.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	29	20	76	0	125
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An addendum to the center license is being made as of 9/4/25. The center is using newly renovated classrooms and their total capacity is now 125 children.

Capacities of classrooms are as follows:

Room 132: 24
Room 131: 20
Room 100: 17
Room 101: 18
Room 102: 17
Room 103: 15
Room 104 (infants in cribs): 14

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center was 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. She is also organized.

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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 has increased over the past year.

There is a staff recognition program in place. Staff are also eligible for certain benefits.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Several staff members are involved in the TEACH and WAGES programs.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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 expired. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
There were a couple of cords observed that were freely dangling rather than being tucked behind shelving or more securely fastened to the walls.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
The one on file expired end of 5/2025. This was most likely inspected again recently, but the center did not have a copy of the inspection.

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.
For children using sleep sacks, the arms and hands of children should be free rather than sewn into the sleep sack.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
For children that bring in their own lunches, all food groups (grain, protein, vegetable, fruit - or two vegetables, and milk) should be offered. If not all five groups present, the center needs to supplement. THIS IS A REPEAT VIOLATION FROM LAST YEAR, BUT FOR SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THINGS

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

N/A.

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5. 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. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The current boiler inspection on file expired at the end of 5/2025. The center should get a copy of this from the other program located within the church or from the church.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded. First-Aid/CPR and Mandatory Reporter should also be uploaded.

It was noted that the field turf on the playground is coming up in two areas where children dig. This will need to be repaired to prevent a potential tripping hazard.

A child-sized couch in one of the two year old classrooms should be replaced.

It was noted that the center (church) is undergoing some reconstruction. As a result, some of the playground surfacing had to be torn apart. The center is not using this specific space until this area can be repaired.

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

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nathan Knepper

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**.