Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Voyagers

Provider No.: 51052

Address: 2700 Westown PKWY STE 140, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Erin Davis and Mia Davis

On-Site Supervisor: Samantha Hildebrand and Elizabeth Lear

Phone Number: 5154478097

E-Mail: littlevoyagersia@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/29/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/19/2025

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections are done at least every three years. The City of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] 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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 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	24	14	36	16	90
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 6/29/26. The director, Mia Davis, was present throughout the inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Little Voyagers is a child care program located in West Des Moines, IA that was given permission to open on 5/1/20. This center is a center under a new name (previously The Learning Loft) and new location (previously located in Urbandale, IA). The center serves children six weeks in age through 12 years in age. Staff use the learning curriculum Learning Every Day. There are a total of five classrooms. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 60 children.

The owner/director of the program is Erin Davis. Erin has her AA degree in Early Childhood Education and has a number of years' worth of experience working in child care. The other director is now Mia Davis. Mia was previously an on-site supervisor. Mia meets the need for director based on her education, training, and experience. The on-site supervisors are Samantha Hildebrand and Elizabeth Lear. Both individuals meet the qualifications as on-site supervisors.

NUTRITION: The center provides an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack to children. Children eat in their classrooms. Menus are posted for the week. There were some issues with food items not meeting CACFP and/or components missing that were discussed during the inspection. The center has their own kitchen were meals are prepared. Food storage was sufficient.

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TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has a van for transporting children to school and for field trips. Only school-age children are eligible to go on field trips. For all transportation needs, children's emergency contacts and a first-aid kit are taken along. Regular maintenance is performed on the van.

PLAYGROUND: The center has a fenced in playground space near the entrance of the building. The playground has a cement area for riding toys and a grassy area for large motor play. Part of the fence needs to be repaired so it is not a safety hazard. The building provides some shade. Monthly playground checks are being conducted.

During the inspection, school-age children were engaged in free-choice play in their classroom at the different learning stations. In all classrooms, staff stated toys and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily. Most of the other children were napping in cribs and/or cots when their classrooms were observed. Crib and cot spacing was sufficient. One infant was being held while bottle fed. Staff questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

For more difficult child behaviors, the director stated she and her staff make it a point to work together and personally know when to ask for assistance and/or need a break. Communication with each other and then also with parents to hopefully get more challenging behaviors under control is practiced. The director added that she tells her staff to try to look at any particular situation from the child's perspective to hopefully get a better understanding of what is actually occurring and why.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Enrollment remains steady.

There are many tenured staff that work at this center. The director stated she had a good group of staff working for her.

Staff reportedly work well together.

Center management stated they were proud of the learning curriculum they use with children. The curriculum is more detailed and planned monthly.

The center uses the Bright Wheel and DoJo apps for increased communication with parents and tracking forms.

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

The center works with CCR&R and their CCNC regularly.

Over the past year, new flooring has been installed in some areas. The parking lot was also repaved.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Two staff are now past due for renewing first-aid/CPR as of 5/2026.

109.10(13)c: Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans.
All staff will need to review the center's Emergency Preparedness written plan as well as the staff handbooks. Management

should reach out to their relocation places to ensure these places are still viable if ever needed.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must:Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water.Include safe play equipment and an area of shade.Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic. At last year's inspection, it was noted that part of the fence was bowing and in need of repair. At this year's inspection, this issue still existing, but was worse that last year.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
All staff need to know the dwell times required for the disinfecting product using in classrooms. Several different products observed in the center as well as other products that could be used were discussed at length during the inspection.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Several CACFP credible items were missing and/or the food didn't meet CACFP requirements on the food menu.

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

The below standards should be corrected as soon as possible and prior to next year's inspection.

As far as the record check process mentioned below in the notes/recommendations section, these will need to be addressed immediately. Per an email from the director on 6/30/26, they are in the process of doing so.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed in all classrooms 6/12/25 - 6/26/25. 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 CENTER WILL BE DUE FOR RADON TESTING AGAIN IN 6/2030.

The annual HVAC inspection on file was from 6/1/26.

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

The most current diapering posting was emailed to the center after the inspection concluded.

The most current record check manual was emailed to the center after the inspection concluded. The center is working on redoing some SING checks so that all of the information is reviewed and received.

One staff member took Dependent Adult Abuse and not the Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter training. The staff member will have to take the Child Abuse Mandatory Reporter training still.

As mentioned above, different disinfecting products that could be used was discussed at the inspection. Staff will need to make sure the product has an EPA registration number and staff are following dwell times. It was noted that several different products were observed within the center. Products that have more than a five minute dwell time are discouraged.

The center may need to order more cot sheets. Some children were observed having a blanket over them while napping and another blanket under them being used as a pillow. There should be another blanket and/or sheet over the cot and in-

between children and their cots.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The center sent in their application and payment on 6/23/26.

Date: 06/30/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate 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**.