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

Name of Center: The Arc of East Central Iowa-Daycare Enrichment **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25054

Street: 680 2nd St SE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52401 **County:** Linn

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

Director's Name: Devin Hartl **Phone Number:** 319-365-0487

On-Site Supervisor(s): Devin Hartl **E-Mail:** DHartl@arceci.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-04-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-10-2021

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				88	88
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 08-07-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Arc of East Central Iowa (ECI) is a non-profit program that provides elementary, middle, and high school children enriching activities within a structured setting. The inclusive program also provides support needs for those children who have developmental and physical disabilities. The Arc of East Center Iowa (ECI) operates the following two licensed childcare programs in the community: The Arc ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc ECI -Summer Day.

Specifically, this license pertains to The Arc ECI - Daycare Enrichment. During some summers, this program has the ability to combine with and at The Arc ECI - Summer Day location. The Arc ECI - Daycare Enrichment operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am-6:00pm. Current enrollment is 25.

Devin Hartl became the multi-site childcare director of The Arc of ECI in March 2023. Ms. Hartl has an AA degree in liberal arts, have over 4 years experience working with children and persons with disabilities, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 8/4/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The Arc of ECI offers a variety of full-time and part-time programming options to help meet the needs in the community. The Arc of ECI operates the following two programs in the Linn County area: The Arc of ECI- Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI - Summer Day. The programs are well-established in a predominantly urban area.

During 2023, the Arc of ECI is celebrating their 70th year of operations. An upcoming open house with ribbon cutting is being held to recognize the individuals and families The Arc of ECI has supported and everyone who as supported The Arc of ECI since 1953. Congratulations!

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

Since the last review, the program obtained a new director Devin Hartl. Ms. Hartl is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Hartl, along with The Arc of ECI administrative team, is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Ms. Hartl discussed goals she has for herself as well as the program. Ms. Hartl talked about possible participation in quality initiatives including IQ4K. Ms. Hartl acknowledged how staff have reported an increase in happiness with being able to express and try out new ideas.

The Arc of ECI retains seasoned staff as well as recently hiring a few new ones. Staff throughout the program reported celebrating 25 years, 13 years, 5 years and 6 months employment with The Arc of ECI. Several staff reported being college

students or being employed with local school districts as paraeducators and/or teachers during the school-year only to be able to assist The Arc of ECI during summer operations. Ms. Hartl talked about The Arc of ECI's professional staff hiring and onboarding. Ms. Hartl reported The Arc of ECI holds regular staff meetings for continued support as well as to review policies and procedures. File review indicates employee annual professional growth hours exceed code requirements. Ms. Hartl discussed being proud of how the program continues to "...keep growing and changing..." and "...how everyone takes feedback, is flexible and works as a team..."

The Arc of ECI is non-profit and operates under a board of directors. The board, administrative team and staff partner well together to help ensure program areas are sanitary and hazard free throughout the day. Building and grounds are well maintained. A new unique outdoor building mural greets families and visitors upon arrival to the program's entrance. The building is ADA accessible. The Arc of ECI has established elopement safeguards to various areas of the building. Kitchen and food storage areas are organized and sanitary. In spring/summer 2023, with support from grants and financial campaigns, the program's lower level was renovated (e.g. participant restrooms, fresh paint). Also, extremely noteworthy is that during this time, the program's outdoor recreation space underwent a complete well-designed modernization having considerations for the needs of all by incorporating surfacing and play equipment that promotes growth and joy for all children!

Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner. Communication between staff and those enrolled is done verbally, with picture cues, and through sign language. Curriculum includes on-site guest speaker events, off-site field trip adventures (e.g. YMCA, Tipton Aquatic Center, Crumble Cookies, mini golfing, splash pads, local library, bowling, Deb's Ice Cream), neighborhood walks, tandem bike rides, outdoor learning, scavenger hunts, large gross motor individual and group activities, enrichment opportunities, and cooking experiences.

The Arc of ECI has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County historic flood, 2019 Polar Vortex, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm, 2019 health (Covid-19) pandemic and 2023 undesirable air quality.

The Arc of ECI continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters (e.g. Challenger Newsletter), utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Staff have access to mobile electronics to allow for easier program documentation. Ms. Hartl discussed a family meet-and-greet opportunity which occurred in May 2023 to help enhance program/family communication.

The Arc of ECI is invested in the community and continues to collaborate with numerous agencies including local businesses, city library, CCR&R, YMCA, Camp Courageous, City Parks and Recreational Department, health professionals, LIFTS, and local school districts. The Arc of ECI sponsors many community events including Arc March, Unified Softball Games and upcoming collaborative event with Theater Cedar Rapids.

Each family and participant is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The Arc of ECI has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to those attending. The week's theme is "Fun in the Sun". Staff were observed warmly greeting each participant and family upon arrival. An array of materials and activities (e.g. crafts, puzzles, games, building materials) were available. One participant was overheard expressing delight in staff braiding her hair. Discussion between staff and participants was had regarding the day's upcoming field trip involving water activities. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing those present to have many choices in the day's experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, breakfast rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the program rooms, staff were overheard providing many words of encouragement and engaging in much meaningful discussion. Those attending responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.