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

Name of Center: Bear Care **Enrollment:** 128 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46329

Street: 808 E Lucas St **City:** Algona Iowa **Zip** 50511 **County:** Kossuth

Mailing Address: 808 E Lucas St, Algona, IA, 50511

Director's Name: Kristie Hough **Phone Number:** 515-295-3509

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sara Casey **E-Mail:** houghk@bishopgarrigan.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-27-2023

X **Licensing Visit** **Unannounced Visit** X **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 X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 06-30-2020

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	29	17	47	15	108
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-03-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Bear Care center on 01-27-23 where I met with school principal and center director Kristie Hough, and on-site supervisor, Sara Casey. Kristie is well qualified for the position with a Masters degree and more than 20 years of experience in early childhood education. Sara is also well qualified based on her experience, and training. The program is located in the Bishop Garrigan Catholic school in Algona and is overseen by the Archdiocese of Sioux City. The center provides daycare and preschool programming for infants and preschool age children, a formal 3 year old preschool program, and after school and summer programming for school age children. There are approximately 128 children enrolled in the center between the various programs served by 25 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the program remains the same as in the prior visits. The program has a campus arrangement using various classrooms of the school building for older children, and the young infant care (birth - 12 months) in a renovated residential home that is on the same property as the school building. The layout of the school building rooms has a large room that is divided into two rooms by a pass-through work area and a small hallway with older infants, and 3 year old children on either side. There are two classrooms on either side that are connected by doorways with 2 year old children in one, and preschool wrap around in the other. The center has two other rooms that have shared usage with one for the formal 3 year old preschool that operates on limited days and shares the space with the 4 year old preschool that is operated under the department of education authority. A final room is used for the after school programming at the end of the day.

Each of the classrooms in the school building have windows located along the exterior walls which provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and secondary emergency egress. The older infant room also has a secondary emergency exit providing direct egress to the outdoors. A large archway opening connects the infant room to the 2 year old classroom but a barrier is in place to prevent intrusion by the older children. Each room was observed to be clean with a few minor maintenance issues but nothing that rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern. Each room is arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Bathrooms are located off the main hallway with separate facilities for boys and girls though an additional bathroom is located directly across the hall from the 3 year old daycare room. The infant spaces and the 2 year old rooms have changing stations, and additional sinks in them to facilitate hand washing.

The young infant space as noted is a renovated residential building. All programming occurs on the main floor though there is a full basement which is used for an emergency storm shelter. The layout has a main area that would have served as a living/dining room space with two alcove rooms off that space which are used for cribs and sleeping areas. Both are accessed via large archway openings and are visible from the main programming room. A changing station is located in what would be considered a back bedroom. A full bathroom is present where the infants hands can be washed. The building has windows along the exterior walls in all rooms. There are several exits including one that was installed with a ramp to provide at grade egress for use with evacuation cribs. The programming rooms were observed to be clean. There were a few minor maintenance issues such as some cribs with loosening hardware and drywall damage but nothing that rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern.

Each room in both buildings had a good selection of toys and materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Kristi did identify that the center is working to increase the number of toys that are more imagination and manipulation driven as opposed to electronic. One example was in the older infant room with a selection of 3D plastic animal shape toys. While animal shape toys are common this set had a focused learning alphabet learning theme with each shape being a mammal that started with the letter printed on the animal such as an Urial for the Letter U. The staff also seek to rotate toys on regular basis to help support the planned curriculum and prevent boredom in the children. A daily schedule and copy and planned curriculum were posted for each classroom in the main school building. The curriculum themes varied between the classrooms with examples of the 2 year old classroom having a Dinosaurs theme, and the preschool wrap around classroom a theme of Opposites. Good interactions were observed with every staff member being actively engaged with the children either attending to their needs such as changing diapers, or implementing specific curriculum activities. As examples staff in the 2 year old room were doing a teacher lead group activity of phonics review, and the preschool wrap program was in the gymnasium engaged in large motor play activities. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age with at least 2 staff present in each room.

Good health and safety policies were observed in all areas of the program. During the time of my visit I was able to observe a diaper changes in both the infant house and the main school building. Changing procedures postings were present at all stations and staff did follow the procedures. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers reminding the children to wash their hands and providing hand over hand assistance as needed to ensure that they washed in an effective manner. Good cleaning practices were observed with the staff waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Over the counter medications, chemical cleaners, and items that could be a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. The center does maintain first aid kits in the classrooms but also has access to the larger stores of materials located in the school office. The center did have children with diagnosed allergies and response plans were maintained for the children in the classrooms. Good safe sleep practices were observed.

Meals are prepared by the school cafeteria and a menu of planned meals and snacks is posted. A supply of snack crackers and other items are stored in cabinets and refrigerators in some of the classroom areas. Good food storage and handling practices were in place but thermometers were not present in the refrigeration/freezer units in the classrooms. If these will be used to store food items intended for child consumption a thermometer is required to be present to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. Snack was served during the time of my visit and good food service practices were observed. Food service gloves were worn when handling food and food service items. The teachers also provided good supervision at the tables during the meals.

The playground is located between the school and the infant house and is fully enclosed by fencing. The playground is intended for the older preschool and school age children. The playground has grassy, paved, and soft play areas. Pea gravel is used in the soft areas for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures but could not be fully assessed due to snow cover and winter freeze and will need to be evaluated for the need to be aerated or supplemented in the spring once the ground has thawed. The equipment was generally observed to be in good repair though some of the climbing structures are made of wood and will need to be monitored for weathering and splintering. A retention bolt on the slide was missing and while it did not appear to significantly impact the structural stability of the slide it should be replaced. It is noted that this was identified in the prior licensing visit. Mature trees provide shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for consultant contact, mandatory abuse reporting, no smoking, and the center license were posted and readily visible to all parents and visitors in both locations. The center uses a self-audit system to track information in child and staff files. A random sample of both child and staff files were selected for review and compared to the self-audit which was found to be accurate. Based on the review and self-audit 13 child files were identified as needing a renewed physical, and 1 employee needed a renewed physical. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center had continued to develop the focus and implementation of curriculum and developing school readiness skills. As noted this was reflected in the acquisition of toys that are more imagination driven, and individualized classroom curriculums. The teachers were also doing an excellent job of presenting the planned curriculums and engaging the children in reviewing learning concepts such as numbers, letters, and sounds.

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

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: 1

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, 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: 13

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The slide structure on the playground has a messing retention bolt on the slide chute which was identified in the prior licensing visit and needs to be replaced. Thermometers are also required in all refrigeration and freezer units used to store food items intended for child consumption.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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: 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.