Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Above and Beyond

Provider No.: 52395

Address: 6151 Thornton AVE STE 500, Des Moines, IA, 50321

County: Polk

Director's Name: Mark Schelle

On-Site Supervisor: Mindy Garcia and Nichole Greene

Phone Number: 5154140684

E-Mail: aboveandbeyonddsm@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/06/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/26/2024

Comments: Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing requirements, these inspections are due at least every three years. The City of Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 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	29	17	47	8	101
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 3/6/26. The director 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 (not the fenced in playground in the grassy area because of weather), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Above and Beyond (formerly known as Leaps and Bounds Children's Academy) is a child care center located in Des Moines, IA serving children ages six weeks in age to 12 years in age (although school-age children primarily attend only during the summer months as well as school breaks during the school year). The center opened for business in 3/2011. The center moved into their current location in January 2024. The center utilizes their own learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums.

For the new building, the infant classroom has a capacity of 11 children. The one year old classroom has a capacity of 18 children. The two year old classroom has a capacity of 17 children. The three year old classroom has a capacity of 19 children. One four year old classroom has a capacity of 10 children. Another four/five year old classroom has a capacity of 18 children. The family room/school-age classroom has a capacity of eight children. Total enrollment on the day of the inspection was 65 children.

The owner/director of the center is Mark Schelle. Mark has his BA degree in business and has worked in child care for many years. There are two on-site supervisors. Mindy Garcia has worked in child care for a number of years and meets the qualifications for her position. Mindy also spends a great deal of time in the classroom setting. Nichole Greene is the other

on-site supervisor. Nichole has several years' worth of experience working in child care. Nichole also tracks the majority of staff and children files as well as inspection forms.

During the inspection, children were observed in a variety of activities. Some of these activities included being held while being bottle fed, napping in cribs, washing hands, and eating lunch. Staff discussed where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills. Toys and other equipment are being sanitized daily.

NUTRITION: The center serves children an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack. The menu rotates every two weeks. There is a kitchen. Either the owner/director or another designated person cooks the lunches. Children eat at the child-size tables in their classrooms. Family style dining is practiced.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not go on field trips. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations for the children.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playground areas. One is directly connected to the center and consists of turf and other items for children to use while in play. The other playground is a little bit further out within the grounds and consists of a fenced in grassy area. Monthly playground checks are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Enrollment remains steady.

Each classroom has a first-aid kit. There are also extra first-aid supplies.

The center employs a full-time cook.

There is family room set up for parents who may want to visit their child during the center's hours of operation outside of the classroom. Staff also utilize this room for completing online trainings. There is also a staff lounge.

There is a cleaning crew that cleans the center outside of center hours one time a week. This is in addition to the staff and their cleaning responsibilities.

The owner again stated he had a good group of core staff and they all work well with each other and take pride in their work/classrooms. There are several tenured staff at this center. Staff turnover is low.

The owner stated the center also has a good working relationship with the other businesses on the grounds. There are good community partnership with other businesses. Finally, the owner felt he and his staff have a really good relationship with families they serve.

Staff have stated they liked how ownership treats them fair, but had high expectations for them and checks in on them to see how they are doing, but also to get to know them. There is a real feel of a family environment.

The owner/director has his NAC certification and has also taken CACFP classes.

Staff photos are posted in the main hallway.

Quarterly staff meetings are held.

Several staff are involved in the TEACH and WAGES programs. Most lead teachers have degrees.

Several staff are bi-lingual.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The on-site supervisors are both involved with the STEM advisory council within the metro.

Some interior and equipment renovations and replacements have taken place over the past year.

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.
One staff member was missing some 2025 professional development training hours. These were not found hard copy nor in I - Power.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon was completed in the new building in 12/5/23 - 12/8/23. All classroom 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 annual HVACC units were inspected on 3/3/26 per the company that did the inspection. The company will be sending the invoice/service form to the center in the near future.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. The center has continued to work towards IQ4K status. All staff appear to have I-Power profiles and training certificates should continue to be uploaded.

Date: 03/09/2026

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**.