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

**Name of Center:** Beautiful Beginnings **Enrollment:** 59 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27374

**Street:** 1701 W Jester Park DR **City:** Polk City Iowa **Zip** 50226 **County:** Polk

**Mailing Address:** 1701 W Jester Park DR, Polk City, IA, 50226

**Director's Name:** Christy Hauger **Phone Number:** 515-984-6146

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Michelle Smith and Tawny Ferraz **E-Mail:** beautiful_beginnings1@yahoo.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 07-14-2025

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-28-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 07-12-2023

**Comments :** State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years. Completed by Andy McCall--Iowa Dept of Public Safety

**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 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 | 24 | 17 | 40 | 50 | 131 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-03-2025

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced off year visit was completed 7-14-25. The Director and Assistant Director were present through the visit.

Beautiful Beginnings is a child care and preschool program that is located in one wing of the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church In Polk City, IA. The original church structure was built in 1991 and a new addition was added in 2004. The center serves children ages six weeks in age to roughly 12 years. Hours are: Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

There is a Center Board that oversee the center operations. Christy Hauger was named Director in June 2025. She has a bachelors degree in early childhood education, and many years of child care experience. She meets the director criteria. The assistant director is Tawny Ferraz; She was the interim director with training and child care experience, she meets the criteria for assistant director.

Observation of Rooms: The center utilizes creative curriculum for lesson planning and the pro-care application to communicate with parents/documentation. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers and toys available in each room. Teachers were in ratio on this day; with children that were content. The were also observed to maintain a good structure in the rooms. The center is utilizing bleach water and soapy water for cleaning/sanitization. The changing table in the 2's room had some breakdown on the pad and discussion took place to replace this item. There was discussion to remove tacks from the rooms and replace with tape or "command" hooks for instance.

Nutrition: The center shares kitchen usage with the church; separate areas for storage of food and supplies are kept. The center has a dedicated kitchen staff. The kitchen was very clean; and organized. Menus were posted and are on a 5-week menu rotation in-line with CACFP guidelines. The food is prepared on site and served to the children family-style in the classrooms. The staff are interactive with the children through breakfast, lunch and snack times.

Health and Safety: When medication is needed at the center, it is stored securely. There were stocked first aid equipment. Emergency plans were conspicuously posted. Review of the Emergency drill (fire/tornado) revealed drills had been completed with the exception of a few months; and safety checks of the playground had also been completed. The fuel-burning heating/cooling and cooking systems in the facility are maintained by the church and the director will work on obtaining a copy of the inspection records for child care licensing.

Playground: This center has the choice of outside play area, enclosed with chain link fencing and divided by age appropriate equipment or use of the gym for recreation. The playground areas were in good condition without obvious hazards. Safety surfacing is pour in place; there are shade structures available also. All but a few months of playground inspections were documented as completed.

Transportation: The center has a new 15 passenger van purchased for before and after school transportation. The vans are professionally maintained.

Administrative records: The center had conspicuously posted mandatory reporter information; handbook availability;

consultant contact, license, along with fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking signs. Six child files were reviewed and contained all the required information; Six staff files were reviewed--Three needed updated SING (Iowa Checks); three needed updated National Checks (fingerprints); one staff needed updated CPR/First aid re-certification (which the director stated training was set up for July 19); one staff needed to update mandatory reporter training; one staff needed to provide an updated physical form; and at least two staff did need to work to complete annual training requirements. It should be noted this director and assistant director were only appointed a few days/weeks prior to this licensing visit and were already working to update training.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center continues to maintain a strong relationship and partnership with the church.

The center has a strong reputation in the community.

The staff communicate well with the families and maintains a website.

The center does a vision screening for children ages six months to four years of age and free of charge.

Cameras and monitors are in every classroom, including the playground and parking lot;  so that the director can see what is going on in the classrooms from the office.

The center has a mixture of long-term staff and newer; which were observed to work well together with content children in their care.

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

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
*three staff needed updated SING checks (which are required every two years)

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
*three staff needed updated National (fingerprint) background checks, which are required upon employment and every four years.

109.9(1)b: 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.
*one staff needed to provide updated physical form/information; which is required every three years and up to six months prior/post employment date.

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.
*Three staff were lacking documentation of annual required training (10 hours required in first year; 8 hours yearly for directors and 6 hours yearly is required for staff)

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
*a few months were missing documentation that emergency drills were completed.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing was completed 7/2022 and was under the 4.0 safety levels.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The children were observed to be content and engaged in staff lead activities. The staff were observed to maintain good structure.

The director and assistant director are newer to these positions and worked well as a team during this visit.

This center is working to update an off-site emergency evacuation plan.

Discussion with the director took place regarding the need to update a changing pad in the 2's room due to breakdown that compromises sanitization; and also the need to remove tacks from the classrooms, which the director was receptive and stated would be updated quickly.

*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.