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

Name of Center: Building Bright Beginnings **Enrollment:** 58 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21572

Street: 202 Byron AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 202 Byron AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Sami Stamatiades **Phone Number:** 319-287-6094

On-Site Supervisor(s): Debi Wilson **E-Mail:** bbbsami@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-15-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-24-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-17-2022

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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	23	4	11	6	44
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 03-28-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 03/15/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Building Bright Beginnings in Waterloo. I met with Sami Stamatiades, the owner and director. She has owned and operated the center since December 2001, but she had been employed at the center since September 1996. Debi Wilson is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Wilson has been employed at the center since 1996 and she is the lead teacher in the infant room. There are eleven staff members employed by the center, including Ms. Stamatiades.

Building Bright Beginnings operates out of a free-standing building. It operates Monday through Friday 5:30 am until 5:30 pm. The center offers a preschool program that operates daily from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. There are currently 58 children enrolled in the center. The program serves infants through school-aged children.

The center operates out of three rooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for two of the rooms and one room uses artificial lighting. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, woodworking, sensory table, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum, but also implements other resources into their lesson plans. The center prepares activities based on weekly themes. The themes are the same for the entire center. Lesson plans were posted and available for review.

There was a phone with emergency numbers on each level. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the center. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in February 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site on each level. On the upper level it was in the landing outside the infant room and on the lower level it was on a shelf by the furnace room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/17/22.

The center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. There is a kitchen on-site where meals are prepared. Tammy Engelhardt is the cook, and she also helps in the classrooms. The center serves breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The meals are served in the classrooms. Staff members prepare the plates for the children and all dishes are returned to the kitchen and washed using the three-step method. Menus

are on a six-week rotating schedule. Menus and allergies were posted.

Parents provide the formula, cereal and jar baby food. The center does not provide any food until they are on table food. The infant room has highchairs for the younger children in the room and the older children sit at small tables. The highchairs had working safety straps. Bottles are returned to the kitchen to be washed.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There was one refrigerator and a chest freezer, and each had thermometers. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is also a small closed off area in the infant room where staff prepares the food and formula. There is a refrigerator in this area and a thermometer was present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing tables. Bottles were clearly labeled. I discussed diaper changes with the staff members and proper procedures were followed.

The center has a fenced in playground area. The center just replaced the fence with one that provides them more privacy. Wood chips are currently used for surface cushioning, but they are going to replace them with rubber mulch. The play area has climbing equipment with slides and climbing wall. There is a tunnel, teeter totter, playhouses, basketball hoops, a climbing dome, transportation toys and they just added a stationary train for the children to play on. There is a picnic table for the children to rest.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. There was one outdated physical, but this will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

I reviewed three staff files. Two staff members did not have training certificates to show they had the mandated number of on-going training hours. Staff members, other than the director and on-site supervisor, must have six hours of on-going training hours each year.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

I observed the staff member to have fantastic interaction with the children. The staff members in the rooms for the older children are extremely patient. There was more than one child in the classes with obvious behavior concerns and the staff members were consistent and used positive redirection with the children each time they were acting up. Staff members were flexible with their schedules to accommodate the needs of the children. Staff members were on the floor and sitting at the table actively playing with the children. They encouraged them to use their imaginations. In the infant room the staff members were on the floor with the children. They were working on sitting up and tummy time. They introduced activities to the children. They were nurturing and held children on their laps. They read and sang to the children. They removed toys the children put in their mouths to be sanitized. They did a great job.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Stamatiades states parents continue to return to the center so they can care for their children.

Ms. Stamatiades states the center receives a lot of compliments from parents and referrals for other families from them.

Ms. Stamatiades states they have utilized the recruitment and retention bonus for qualified staff members.

Ms. Stamatiades states eight staff members have been with the center for ten years and longer. Longevity of staff members provides consistency for the children and families.

The center used a grant to put new floors in the entire center. They also painted the entire center. The changes have really brightened the classrooms up.

The center added a three-compartment sink in the kitchen for dishes.

The center added a new fence around the playground that provides more privacy. Ms. Stamatiades is purchasing rubber mulch to replace the woodchips they have used for many years.

Ms. Stamatiades states they bring Central Rivers AEA to the center to observe and work with children who have behavioral

concerns and other identified issues.

The program has cameras in each room and security at the entrance.

The center is a bus stop for Kittrell school-aged children.

Ms. Stamatiades is flexible with the families she works with.

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

109.9(1)e: 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.
Number not in compliance: 2
Two staff members did not have training certificates to show they had the mandated number of on-going training hours. Staff members, other than the director and on-site supervisor, must have six hours of on-going training hours each year.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.