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

Name of Center: Berry Tender Child Care **Enrollment:** 86 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22967

Street: 401 Commercial ST **City:** Strawberry Point Iowa **Zip** 52076 **County:** Clayton

Mailing Address: PO Box 471, Strawberry Point, IA, 52076

Director's Name: Jessica Haynes **Phone Number:** 563-933-2514

On-Site Supervisor(s): Melany Kelley **E-Mail:** berrytenderchildcare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-02-2024

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:** 12-04-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-02-2021

Comments : Compliance on 08/05/21

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	15	21	20	14	70
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/02/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Berry Tender Child Care in Strawberry Point. I met with Jessica Haynes, the director. Ms. Haynes has been with the center since August 2003 and the director since October 2015. Ms. Haynes has a one-year diploma in child development. Melany Kelley is the on-site supervisor for the program. She has been with the center since September 2004. There are seventeen staff members employed by the center. Pictures of the staff members are in the hallway on a parent board.

The childcare center is in the Strawberry Point Civic Center and it is attached to the local library. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:15 am until 6:30 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently of 86 children enrolled in the center.

The program operates out of the following rooms: Duckling (infants), Bear (two and three-year-old children), Tiger (preschool and school-age children), and Lion (school-aged children during the summer). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes and colors. 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, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, playdough, 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 shelves in the Bear room do not have many activities. The teacher said she has more activities in the cupboards. I would like to see more activities on the shelves readily available to the children.

Cots are used to nap.

The classrooms use a variety of resources to create lesson plans. Activities are based around weekly themes and each teacher makes their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review in each room except for the Bear room. The Bear room should be completing weekly lesson plans.

The center is using the Lillio app, formally known as HiMama, for daily sheets in the infant room and all classrooms are using the app to complete their lesson plans and communicate with parents.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the office and the Tiger room. Emergency numbers are in the binders with the children's emergency information in each room. Walkie talkies are available to each room so that staff members can communicate with one another. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program rooms and gym. When you use the Lion room you need to post the evacuation diagram near the second exit out of the room near the bathroom. Daily schedules were posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program installed a new fuel burning HVAC system in 2023. The unit was inspected at the time of installation. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in each program room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/02/21, with compliance on 08/05/21.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The center makes the meals on site and use a four-week rotation of menus. Ms. Kelley is the cook. The kitchen is in a sectioned off area of the Tiger room. The kitchen is separated from the classroom using countertops and cupboards. The children do not have access to the kitchen. Children eat in their rooms and food is dished out to the children by staff members. Menus were available for review. Dishes are washed using the three-step method. The refrigerator and chest freezer had thermometers. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room, the center provides a specific brand of formula. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. The parents provide their children baby food and the center provides cereal. Bottles are washed in the room using the three-step method.

There is a refrigerator in the Duck, Bear and Lion rooms and thermometers were present.

The center uses Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed diaper changes in the Duck and Bear room. Proper procedures are followed in both rooms for the diaper change. In the Bear room the staff member was doing back to back diaper changes and was wiping the disinfectant off the tables immediately. The disinfectant must sit on the changing table for it to be effective.

There was a homemade diaper cream in the Bear room. This is not allowed. Parents must provide you with products that have directions for use. If a parent wants to use a homemade product, they can take it to their doctor or pharmacist and have them make a product warning label with directions for use.

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 is in the office. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has two fenced in playground areas. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing in each area. There is climbing equipment on each side with activities like slides. There is a grassy space in each area. Trees are used for shade. There are picnic tables and a bench to rest on. Both sides are for children ages two through twelve-years-old.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 15 children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide complete dental emergency contact information. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. Several did not provide complete addresses. There was one outdated physical and one missing physical. There was one invalid immunization certificate because it was not signed or dated by medical personnel. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

I reviewed four staff files. One staff member had a physical but it was not on the mandated DHH employee physical form, which makes it invalid. Three staff members did not have the mandated on-going staff training hours.

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

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. Staff members had good teamwork. They interacted with the children at their level. In the infant room the staff members asked several great questions to make sure licensing standards are followed. They sat on the floor with the children and introduced them to activities. They were also nurturing and held children on their laps. Staff members were great at multi-tasking. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Haynes states they have a supportive board.

Ms. Haynes states they are trying to build a good relationship with the city. They rent their space from them. She states they have a new city council and some new board members so they are building relationships.

Ms. Haynes states they have really good staff members.

Ms. Haynes states they are lucky to have a couple college girls who work here full time as they take on-line classes.

The program is going add new flooring and cabinets in the Bear and Tiger rooms and new cabinets in the infant room. They are adding new windows in the Lions, Bears and infant room. They received a grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Association in Clayton County.

Ms. Haynes states they have good communication with the parents they serve. They are using the Lillio app, formally known as the HiMama app, to communicate with parents and prepare lesson plans. The parents and staff members love the app.

The program has a locked door for security at the entrance of the hallway to the childcare center. Cameras are in each room and they can record.

There are pictures with information about each staff member in the entrance.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Number not in compliance: 3
Three staff members did not have the mandated on-going staff training hours.

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
One staff member had a physical but it was not on the mandated DHH employee physical form, which makes it invalid.

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, Chiropractor 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: 2
There was one outdated physical and one missing physical.

109.12(5)b: Infants/toddlers diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: In the Bear room the staff member was doing back to back diaper changes and was wiping the disinfectant off the tables immediately. The disinfectant must sit on the changing table for it to be effective. There was a homemade diaper cream in the Bear room. This is not allowed. Parents must provide you with products that have directions for use. If a parent wants to use a homemade product, they can take it to their doctor or pharmacist and have them make a product warning label with directions

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.