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

Name of Center: Bridge to Beginnings: A Child's Place Preschool **Enrollment:** 180 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51015

Street: 610 Maiden Lane **City:** Muscatine Iowa **Zip** 52761 **County:** Muscatine

Mailing Address: 610 Maiden Lane, Muscatine, IA, 52761

Director's Name: Mikelle Cooke **Phone Number:** 563-506-9068

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mary Wetzel **E-Mail:** bridgetobeginnings@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-05-2024, 06-07-2024

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:** 03-19-2020

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

Date Inspected: 01-31-2024

Comments : Does Comply.

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 X 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	36	22	113	113	284
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:		
	FULL license from	
X	**PROVISIONAL** license from	07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	DENIAL of initial application	
	SUSPENSION of license	
	REVOCATION of license	

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 07-25-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker and CCNC Toni Krana arrived at Bridge to Beginnings: A Child's Place for an annual visit on 6/5/24 and 6/7/24. The center provides childcare for infants to school aged children. They currently have 180 children enrolled. The center is located inside of a commercial building. The center is for profit. The center's fire inspection was completed on 2/31/2024.

All program space was observed on the date of my visit. The center has 9 classrooms, a gym, a party room, storage areas, kitchen/kitchenette, and an office.

The director is Mikelle Cooke. Mikelle opened the center in 3/2020.

The onsite supervisor is Mary Wetzel. Mary started at the center in 12/2020.

Nutritional practices were checked. The center is on CACFP. The center provides breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center followed handwashing procedures. The center stored medications appropriately. The center had a fully stocked first aid kit. The center practiced emergency drills as required. The center had completed radon testing as required. The center had completed an annual fuel burning appliance inspection and had a carbon monoxide detector.

The center's curriculum is teacher created. The center does take children over the age of 4 years on field trips. Examples include the aquatic center, library, museums, Discovery Center and parks.

The center's policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed. The center had all required postings. The center communicates with parents by via: Brightwheel.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
-The center accepts Child Care Assistance.
-The center uses Brightwheel for open communication.
-The center has purchased a wide variety of educational and engaging activities for the children.

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

109.5(1): Written policy notifying parents of unlimited access provisions.
-The center's handbook states the following: "You have access to your child at all times when they are present in Bridge to

Beginnings Childcare Center. Access Policy: You may enter Bridge to Beginnings Childcare Center through the main entrance in the front of the building. Our facility has a secured locked entry, you must ring the doorbell to be let in by a Staff member at all times. Please be ready to show the proper I.D. to pick up your child. This means unauthorized visitors are never a risk to your child's safety. All doors will remain locked at all times. There is a security camera system set up to monitor the entrance way and monitor the classrooms at all times."
-Per the director's statement: "Absolutely no admittance into the building will happen at this time unless it has been approved by the center director at a certain time for a specific reason." Several parents were observed on camera waiting for their children for over 5 minutes. Parents shall be afforded unlimited access to their children and to the provider caring for their children during the center's hours of operation or whenever their children are in the care of a provider, unless parental contact is prohibited by court order. The provider shall inform all parents of this policy in writing at the time the child is admitted to the center.

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-Number not in compliance: 1 staff needed to have a record check evaluation completed.

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.
-The pre-employment physical was on the wrong form.

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.
-One preschool physical was missing.

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
-Exits were obstructed. Pictures saved in center's file.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-Staff were seen on their phones. You cannot provide careful supervision when on your phone.
-Several classrooms were too dark during naptime. During rest time, adequate lighting must be maintained for staff to effectively supervise children. Careful supervision has been a repeat citation in 7/29/2022, 1/23/2024 and 6/5/2024.

109.10(16)b: Any person who does not have a record check completed shall not have unrestricted access to children for whom that person is not a parent, guardian, or custodian.
-This worker and the nurse consultant were able to walk into an unlocked door on the 2nd level. The director shared that this has been an ongoing issue with a tenant who rents an apartment. The center advertises a locked facility and therefore should ensure doors are secured daily so that individuals do not have unrestricted access to the children.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
-During both visits the office and kitchenette on the 2nd floor were found to be open and unlocked. Children had access to: cleaning supplies, sunscreens, bug sprays, staff purses and potassium ionized crystals.
-Potassium ionized crystals can be toxic.
-An Art Closet by the back door on the lower level had hydrogen peroxide and shaving cream accessible.
-This is a repeat citation in 6/30/2020, 6/4/2021, 6/12/2023, 1/23/2024 and 6/5/2024.

The center was placed on a provisional license on 2/1/2024. In that provisional report the center was asked to:

-The center is encouraged to develop a working relationship with their Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
The center did not have CCR&R come out to help. The center had email communications with CCR&R 3 times between 1/2024 and 6/2024.

-The center is encouraged to develop a working relationship with their Nurse Consultant: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci
The center had the CCNC visit on 2/23/24, 3/5/24 and 3/7/2024.

-The center director will work to correct all citations and ensure compliance with Iowa Code 109.

-The center director continues to struggle with understanding Iowa Code 109. She has had minimal interactions with outside agencies that offer supportive services (CCR&R and CCNC). The center director has established a pattern of disregard for HHS rules and regulations. It is imperative that she begin to correct and ensure compliance with Iowa Code 109.

The following pattern of citations have been identified:

-109.6(6)c: Missing Iowa SING Checks: This is a repeat citation in 6/30/2020, 6/4/2021, 6/15/2022, and 1/23/2024.
-109.6(6)d: Missing National FBI Checks: This is a repeat citation in 6/30/2020, 6/4/2021, 6/15/2022.
-109.9(1)b: Missing record check evaluations. This is a repeat citation in 6/30/2020, 6/4/2021, 6/15/2022 and 6/5/2024.
-109.9(1)d: Missing pre-employment physical exam. This is a repeat citation in 6/4/2021, 6/15/2022, 6/12/2023, and 6/5/2024.
-109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed. This is a repeat citation in 1/23/24 and 6/5/2024.
-109.10(16)a: Supervision. Staff did not know how many children were in their care or they were on their phones. This is a repeat citation in 7/29/2022, 1/23/2024 and 6/5/2024.
-109.11(3)a: Facility and premises being sanitary, safe, and hazard free. This is a repeat citation in 6/30/2020, 6/4/2021, 6/12/2023, 1/23/2024 and 6/5/2024.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

As a result of a recent visit to your center, a decision has been made for the center to remain on their provisional license. The center is being placed in corrective action status. The center is directed to correct the items that are cited. Iowa Code 109.2(3) b. A provisional license shall be renewable when written plans giving specific dates for completion to bring the center up to standards are submitted to and approved by the department. A provisional license shall not be reissued for more than two consecutive years when the lack of compliance with the same standards has not been corrected within two years.

1. The center will post their provisional license.
2. The center shall submit a written corrective action plan, using the template provided, to the HHS Licensing Consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. This plan should be submitted to the licensing consultant for review within 10 days of the receipt of this report. This should be done via email: hbrown@dhs.state.ia.us
3. The center director will develop working relations with their Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/ The center director will work with them to ensure they understand Iowa Code 109. The center director will also allow them to complete unannounced drop-ins.
4. The center director will develop working relationships with their Nurse Consultant: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci The center director will work with them to ensure they understand Iowa Code 109. The center director will also allow them to complete unannounced drop-ins.
5. The center director will work to correct all citations and ensure compliance with Iowa Code 109.
6. The center director and all staff will read/review Iowa Code 109: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/441.109.pdf
7. HHS may choose to ask the center to voluntarily close, suspend the center's license or revoke the center's license.
8. HHS may change the provisional license to a full license when the director contacts HHS Licensing Consultant and asks for a revisit. The center director will ensure that the citations have been corrected and they are following Iowa Code 109 prior to contacting HHS Licensing Consultant.

109.2(3) Provisional license. a. A provisional license may be issued or a previously issued license may be reduced to a provisional license for a period up to one year when the center does not sufficiently meet standards imposed by law and these rules. b. A provisional license shall be renewable when written plans giving specific dates for completion to bring the center up to standards are submitted to and approved by the department. A provisional license shall not be reissued for more than two consecutive years when the lack of compliance with the same standards has not been corrected within two years. c. When the center submits documentation or it can otherwise be verified that the center complies with standards imposed by law or these rules, the license shall be upgraded to a full license.

109.2(4) Denial. Initial applications or renewals shall be denied when: a. The center does not comply with center licensing laws and these rules in order to qualify for a full or provisional license. b. The center is operating in a manner which the department determines impairs the safety, health, or well-being of children in care. c. A person subject to an evaluation has transgressions that merit prohibition of involvement with child care and of licensure, as determined by the department. d. Information provided either orally or in writing to the department or contained in the center's files is shown to have been falsified by the provider or with the provider's knowledge. e. The center is not able to obtain an approved fire marshal's certificate as prescribed by the state fire marshal or fails to comply in correcting or repairing any deficiencies in the time determined by the fire marshal or the fire marshal determines the facility is not safe for occupancy. f. The regulatory fee as specified in subrule 109.2(7) is not received by the department's division of fiscal management within 60 calendar days from the due date on the invoice.

109.2(5) Revocation and suspension. A license shall be revoked or suspended if corrective action has not been taken when: a. The center does not comply with center licensing laws or these rules. b. The center is operating in a manner which the department determines impairs the safety, health, or well-being of the children in care. c. A person subject to an evaluation has transgressions that merit prohibition of involvement with child care and of licensure, as determined by the department. d. Information provided to the department or contained in the center's files is shown to have been falsified by the provider or with the provider's knowledge. e. The facility is not able to obtain an approved fire marshal's certificate as prescribed by the state fire marshal or fails to comply in correcting or repairing any deficiencies in the time determined by the fire marshal or the fire marshal determines the facility is not safe for occupancy. f. The regulatory fee as specified in subrule 109.2(7) is not paid in full due to insufficient funds to cover a check submitted to the department for the fee.

109.2(6) Adverse actions. a. Notice of adverse actions for a denial, revocation, or suspension and the right to appeal the licensing decision shall be given to applicants and licensees in accordance with 441—Chapter 7 and rule 441—16.3(17A). b. An applicant or licensee affected by an adverse action may request a hearing by means of a written request directed to the Department of Human Services, Appeals Section, 1305 E. Walnut Street, Fifth Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. The request shall be submitted within 30 days after the date the department mailed the official notice containing the nature of the denial, revocation, or suspension. c. A letter received by an owner or director of a licensed center initiating action to deny, suspend, or revoke the facility's license shall be conspicuously posted at the main entrance to the facility where it can be read by parents or any member of the public. The letter shall remain posted until resolution of the action to deny, suspend or revoke the license. If the action to deny, suspend, or revoke is upheld, the center shall return the license to the department. d. If the center's license is denied, suspended or revoked, the administrator of the department shall notify the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of each child for whom the facility provides child care. The center shall cooperate with the department in providing the names and address of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of each child for whom the facility provides child care.

*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.