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

Name of Center: Beautiful Beginnings **Enrollment:** 56 **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: Haley Carpenter-Smith (Int.) **Phone Number:** 515-984-6146

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

Date(s) of Visit: 08-22-2023

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:** 06-01-2022

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.

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 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-03-2023

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 conducted 8/22/23. Haley Carpenter-Smith was present through this visit. Of note, when this visit took place there had been disruption with a hired director that elected not to take the position; Haley stepped in to be present for this annual visit. She is getting courses and is in consideration for the director position.

All areas of the program were observed on 8/22/23; which consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and 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, however due to staffing difficulty, there is not a school-age program at this time. Current enrollment is 56, with care provided Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

There is a Center Board as well as a Church Board that oversee the center operations. The center had hired a director however this individual elected not to start in the position. Haley Carpenter-Smith is working to attain director status. There are two on-site supervisors, Christy Hauger and Michelle Smith. Both individuals have worked in child care for several years and meet the qualifications for on-site supervisors.

The center is not currently taking school age children at this time for care. This stopped during the pandemic due to staffing shortages and the center continues to hope to add school age care back to their program when the center is fully staffed.

All areas of the program were observed 8/22/23.

Observation of Rooms: The center is currently operating five classrooms; divided by ages. All rooms were in ratio on this day. The infants were being fed or napping and the older children had just had snack and were preparing for group staff-lead activities; or playground time. On this day the air quality had been in question, so center staff made the decision to utilize the gym for recreation time. Each room was observed to be clean with age/developmentally appropriate toys/centers that were in good condition. The staff provided room structure that kept the children engaged in group activities. The children were observed to readily approach staff and receive a nurturing response. Good handwashing practices were observed to be utilized. There is ready access to restroom facilities with the necessary sanitary items available.

Nutrition: The center shares kitchen usage with the church; separate areas for storage of food and supplies are kept. The kitchen was very clean; and updated. The center has a dedicated staff to prepare meals, 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. The children and staff were observed to have ready access to handwashing and participated in such. There were stocked first aid equipment. Emergency plans were conspicuously posted. Review of the Emergency drill (fire/tornado) revealed drills had been completed; 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 were last inspected 7/11/23. Restrooms were orderly and appeared clean. The center overall is organized and kept clean.

Playground: This center has the choice of outside play area, that is fenced and divided by age appropriate equipment or use of the gym for recreation. The playground areas were in good condition without obvious hazards. The area is surfaced with artificial cushion matting; and has a balance of natural light with ample shade.

Transportation: none at this time

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. Five child files were reviewed. No child files reviewed lack the necessary information/updates. Five staff files were reviewed; There was one staff in need of the employee/volunteer statement; One staff needing to complete First Aid/CPR certification (on maternity leave at this visit); and one staff needing to update mandatory reporter training. Note: with the change of director; there had been completion of center-paid trainings but payment issues due to changes in name/responsible party. This center has well-establish policy.

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.

The center has a website..

The center has a long waiting list for enrollment. The staffing shortages have impacted enrollment.

The center uses the Pro Care system and has a secure entrance.

The center participates in the food program (CACFP).

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 good core group of staff who care about the children with several staff at the center for over 10 years.

The classrooms are well supplied with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities.

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

109.6(5)b: Signed statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters.

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 1
-One staff file was missing this information

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
-One staff was in need of recertification of CPR and First Aid (this staff was on maternity leave during the visit); and one staff was in need of updating mandatory reporter training.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon in July of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

This center has a wait-list and is currently looking to add to their staff.

Staff were consistently observed interacting with the children; providing nurturing and structured environment.

*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.