Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Bridge to Beginnings: A Child's Place Preschool

Provider No.: 51015

Address: 610 Maiden Lane, Muscatine, IA, 52761

County: Muscatine

Director's Name: Mikelle Cooke and Chelsea Cremer

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5635069068

E-Mail: bridgetobeginnings@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/20/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2026 to 07/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/25/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	4:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	4:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	4:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	4:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	4:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	36	22	113	113	284
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 7/20/26. The center is for profit and owned by Mikelle Cooke. The co-directors are Mikelle Cooke and Chelsea Cremer. Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in human resources/management and marketing. The center provides care for infants through school aged children. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Program. The center director states the curriculum is teacher created. The center reports enrollment of 94 children.

The center includes nine program rooms, a gym, and a "carousel room" (indoor play room that includes a functioning carousel), kitchen located on two floors of the building that also houses other functions including residential apartments. The center reports keeping their space secure from the other functions of the building. Two of the rooms (preschool rooms) were not in use or set up for child care at the time of the visit. Required postings and child and staff files were reviewed. The licensing notebook including emergency drills, first aid supplies, playground checklist, radon testing, HVAC testing and policies were reviewed. All program space was observed. Staff and child interactions, food service, hand washing, and naptime practices and procedures were observed. Health and safety practices were also reviewed including medication management, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting procedures, excluding ill children/staff, incident reports, and first aid kits. The center followed safe sleep practices during the visit.

Nutritional practices and food safety were observed. The center does participate in the CACFP. The center offers breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. Meals and snacks are prepared in the center's kitchen area by the designated kitchen staff person.

The center provides transportation for school age children to and from school, and one local school provides busing to and

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from the center.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center appears to be well managed by the center director/owner and co-director. The staff appear to work well together and were observed to be engaged with the children in activities throughout the center. The center is clean and organized, and rooms are well supplied and are spacious, bright, and colorfully decorated including many postings. The center has a good supply of books that are organized by topic. Children's projects and crafts are on display throughout the center. Child and staff files and other required licensing documentation were found to be highly organized.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
1. Ensure any surfaces used for food service/food preparation activities are cleared of other items and are then properly cleaned and sanitized immediately prior to this activity.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. The center shall explore options to provide for better shade in one of the outdoor play areas.
2. Ensure any open food items are stored in a sealed container or ziploc that is dated for freshness.

The center will continue with a full license. Please address the violation and the concerns noted above in this section of the report so that corrections are obvious and are maintained. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 08/21/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.