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

Name of Center: Building Bright Beginnings **Enrollment:** 40 **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: 03-12-2025

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:** 02-17-2025

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

Date Inspected: 10-17-2024

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 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 03-24-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 03/12/25 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 thirteen 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. There are currently 40 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 as a guide in creating lesson plans but also implements other resources. 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.

Daily sheets are maintained on children under the age of two.

Cribs are used to nap for infants and cots are used for the older children.

There was a phone with a posting of the emergency numbers on each level that included the center's address and phone number. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board and 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 February 2025. 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 10/17/24.

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 thermometers were present.

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

The center has a fenced in playground area. Wood chips are used for surface cushioning. The play area has slides. a tunnel, teeter totter, playhouses, a small merry-go-round, basketball hoops, a sensory table, a climbing dome, transportation toys and a stationary train for the children to play on. There is a picnic table and benches for the children to rest. There is also a small grassy area with a playhouse.

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 six children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

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

This center has several long term staff members who have worked together for many years. They have great teamwork and long term relationships with families. They provide a feeling of “family” in the center. Ms. Stamatiades is committed to the program and the families she cares for. In the infant room staff members were on the floor building towers with the children. They held children on their laps and were rocking children. They removed toys children put in their mouths to sanitize them. Staff members in both rooms were singing and dancing with the children. Staff members provide the children with a steady routine. The staff members for the older children encouraged the children to use their imaginations while building things with Legos. They read a book to the children and used a stuffed animal to make they story fun. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Stamatiades states staff longevity of the core staff members. She states she is having problems hiring new staff members.

Ms. Stamatiades states their parents always come back and recommend the center to others.

Ms. Stamatiades is an amazing director and leader. She is compassionate and caring and it shows in how she treats her staff members and families.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in the classrooms and stairway.

Staff members have good relationships with one another. They have great teamwork. They help each other as needed.

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.

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

N/A

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.