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

Name of Center: Growing Bear Day Care & Preschool Inc **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18344

Street: 526 4th St NW **City:** Waukon Iowa **Zip** 52172 **County:** Allamakee

Mailing Address: 526 4th St NW, Waukon, IA, 52172

Director's Name: Jessica Waters **Phone Number:** 563-568-2939

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sarita Becker **E-Mail:** growingbeardaycare@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-21-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** X **No** **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 02-22-2024

Comments : Compliance on 03/11/24

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	12	20	19	30	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-24-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/21/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Growing Bear Day Care & Preschool, Inc. in Waukon. I met with Jessica "Jessie" Waters, the director and owner of the center. Ms. Waters has owned and operated the center since 1997. She has an AA in childcare and child development, and she has her National Administrator Credential (NAC). She is also a member of NAEYC. Sarita Becker is the on-site supervisor, and she is in charge when Ms. Waters is not present. She has been employed at the center since January 2006 and the on-site supervisor since August 2020. Ms. Becker has an AA in early childhood education and an AA in human services. There are thirteen staff members employed by the center, including Jessie.

The program is in a free-standing building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 6:00 pm and operates year-around. The program serves infants through school age children. The center partners with the Allamakee Community School District for the Iowa voluntary four-year-old preschool program. Dawanda Ryder is the teacher of the voluntary preschool class. She has an AA in education and a BA in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. The voluntary preschool hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm. There are currently 70 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infants (six weeks to 14-15 months), a room for children 14-15 months until they turn two. A room for two-year-olds, a room for three-year-olds, and a shared room for four-year-old preschool class and school age children. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, the children's art projects, and 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 in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Ipads, art, dramatic play, play dough, writing, math, science/discovery, 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. You must secure the electrical cord for the CD player in the three-year-old classroom or unplug it and put it up when it is not in use. You should also unplug the charger in this same area.

The voluntary preschool class uses the Creative Curriculum. She also uses Handwriting Without Tears, Jolly Phonics, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, and Tera West math and literacy curriculum used by the school. Ms. Ryder completes the GOLD assessments on students. The other rooms use a variety of resources to develop their lesson plans. The length of the theme depends on the children's interest level and topic. Lesson plans were available for review in each room. Daily schedules were posted in all rooms.

Daily sheets for children under the age of two did not have a spot to document the child's mood, which is required. Please add this to the form.

Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted near each phone in the program. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and emergency evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center.

Cribs and cots are used to nap in the infant room and cots are used to nap for the older children.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in March 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program installed a radon mitigation system in late 2014.

The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located on each level of the center. It is in the bathroom in the three-year-old room on the main level and in a closet by the furnace on the lower level. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/22/24, with compliance on 03/11/24.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Ms. Waters is the cook for the program, and she has completed the CACFP and Serv Safe training. The program provides breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. The menus are on a four-week rotation and there is a separate series of menus prepared for May through November and November through May.

Parents provide formula, baby food and cereal. Bottles are washed and sanitized in the infant room.

The kitchen is on the lower level. It was observed to be clean and organized. Menus and allergies were posted. There is a refrigerator and two chest freezers and thermometers were present. There is one double bowl sink and handwashing procedures were posted. The center uses a dishwasher to clean and sanitize dishes. There is a refrigerator in each of the rooms and thermometers were present. Food is stored off the ground and foods items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

There is a child in the two-year-old room has his dishes washed in the classroom. The staff members are only washing the dishes with soap and water. All dishes are required to be sanitized. If you wash the dishes in the room, you must use a bleach dip.

The program uses Purell Food Service Surface Sanitizer to sanitize food tables and Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant disinfect changing tables. I observed staff members clean and sanitize tables. You must use a new rag each time you clean the table with soap and water and a new rag each time you sanitize the table.

Handwashing procedures and diaper changing procedures were posted in most locations. Post handwashing procedures near the sinks in the three-year-old classroom. I observed or discussed diaper changes in the rooms. Proper procedures are followed.

In the room for children ages 14 months until two-years-old there was an outdated medication. The staff member removed the medication and put it with the children's belongings to take home. Please remember that staff members must provide a doctor's note with the dosage for all children under the age of two for Tylenol, Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen.

There is a fenced in play area for the children. There is an area for older children and one for younger children. The outdoor area is in a natural setting and there is no climbing equipment. There is a playhouse located on wood chips. There are "boom whackers" on the fence so the children can play music and there is an easel outside so the children can enjoy art. There are blocks, a balance beam and a sensory table. There are picnic tables for the children. There is a cement area for children to ride bikes and the center has helmets for the children. There is a sandbox with a shade structure. Trees are also in the area to provide shade.

The area for the younger children is located under a deck area. There is also a kitchen set and some riding toys and pushing toys.

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. Parent resources are also located in this area.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten 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 child did not have emergency doctor or dentist contact information. Another child had an invalid immunization certificate as it was not signed or dated by medical personnel. There was not a

pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

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

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. Most of the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. I did not see a biting policy. If you would like me to email you a sample please contact me. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children in each room. They made the learning environment fun and inviting. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles within the classroom and know what to expect from one another. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They sang with children as they washed their hands. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Waters states staff members continue to improve their interactions with the children. They have also improved their interaction with the parents.

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 02/28/26.

Ms. Waters states there has been growth in the center. Parents provide positive feedback about the care their children receive. They are going out in the community and telling other people about their program.

Ms. Waters states her staff members take a lot of trainings.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each room and outside of the center.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

The program is a bus stop for the children.

Ms. Waters puts the money she makes back into the program by purchasing new centers and paying her staff members.

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

109.15(5)c: Sanitary methods are used for dishwashing sufficient to prevent transmission of disease.
Additional concerns: There is a child in the two-year-old room has his dishes washed in the classroom. The staff members are only washing the dishes with soap and water. All dishes are required to be sanitized. If you wash the dishes in the room, you must use a bleach dip. I observed staff members clean and sanitize tables. You must use a new rag each time you clean the table with soap and water and a new rag each time you sanitize the table.

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.