Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Building Blocks Childcare & Preschool

Provider No.: 30098

Address: 108 Gaul DR, Sergeant Bluff, IA, 51054

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Stacy Eldridge

On-Site Supervisor: Rebecca McKee

Phone Number: 7129432223

E-Mail: Stacy.e.eldridge@gmail.com
sbbb.director@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/07/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/12/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 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	30	22	114	30	196
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at Building Blocks in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, on August 7, 2026. During the visit, I met with Assistant Director Becca McKee, who has several years of experience in early childhood education and is nearing completion of her Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to professional growth and quality childcare practices.

The center currently has 140 children enrolled, with 110 children present on the day of the visit. Building entry is secured; visitors must enter a pass code or be admitted by staff to ensure safety. The program serves children from infancy through 10 years of age and operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All areas of the program were observed, including classroom environments and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, playground operations, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative documentation.

The center utilizes Theme Curriculum as the foundation for its educational programming. This curriculum promotes developmentally appropriate practice and emphasizes hands-on, play-based learning experiences. Classroom lesson plans and room arrangements reflect the curriculum’s principles, with clearly defined areas that encourage exploration, creativity, and skill development. Learning areas observed throughout the classrooms included dramatic play, kitchen play, Legos, toys, block building, stuffed animals, art materials, and books. Daily schedules were posted, and classrooms displayed colors, numbers, shapes, and the alphabet, creating a visually engaging environment. Staff have received MONDO training, which supports literacy and language development through structured instructional strategies embedded into daily activities. Family photos were displayed in each classroom, strengthening children’s sense of belonging and connection. Children had access to bathrooms and sinks within the rooms, and visual aids for handwashing and other routines were posted to promote

independence and reinforce healthy habits. Staff were observed actively engaging with children throughout the day. They assisted with activities, played on the floor, read stories, and sat with children during meals. Staff maintained ongoing, meaningful conversations with children, offering encouragement, support, and guidance. Interactions were consistently warm, responsive, and developmentally appropriate, demonstrating a strong commitment to building positive relationships and fostering children's learning. Staff has been trained in MONDO which is an early literacy and instructional training program used in many early childhood and elementary settings. The system provides teachers with structured strategies to build children's skills in reading, writing, vocabulary, listening, and speaking. Mondo emphasizes developmentally appropriate, research-based practices such as interactive reading, guided literacy activities, and intentional language development.

The center practices and documents monthly fire and tornado drills and completes monthly playground inspections. Radon testing has been completed and is within the normal range. Furnace inspections were also completed. First aid kits were available and adequately stocked to treat minor injuries. Playground equipment was observed to be in good repair, and new mulch had recently been added to improve surfacing. The playground includes a shaded area, and staff are currently redistributing pea gravel to maintain safe surfacing throughout.

The center follows CACFP nutritional guidelines. The kitchen is not accessible to children. Meals and snacks are prepared in a large, well-equipped kitchen, and menus were posted. Food storage was appropriate and dated. I observed the cook preparing meals using proper hygiene practices, including consistent glove use.

The center transports children to school and on field trips. This supports the continuum of care model. Maintenance records for the vans and bus were reviewed and showed all required work had been recently completed.

The goal of the program is to increase enrollment while continuing to provide high-quality care and education for all children enrolled.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center is certified at a level 3 for IQ4K. IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) is Iowa's quality rating and improvement system for childcare centers and preschools. Programs are rated on a scale from Level 1 through Level 5, with each level reflecting increased standards in areas such as curriculum, staff training, family engagement, health and safety, and administrative practices. Achieving IQ4K Level 3 indicates that the center has met enhanced quality standards beyond basic licensing requirements. This level demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement and developmentally appropriate practices. IQ4K Level 3 recognizes that the center meets enhanced quality standards beyond basic licensing. This status highlights strong classroom practices, consistent curriculum implementation, improved staff training, and meaningful family engagement. It also signals to families and the community that the program provides a higher level of care.

The summer has been filled with engaging activities, including trips to the local library and participation in their community programs. Utilizing community resources is an excellent way to enrich children's learning experiences and strengthen connections beyond the classroom.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Please identify an on-site supervisor for the center as required by HHS licensing and request this role in IPOWER>

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Beca regarding her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance
Staff are required to review policies on safe sleep and PBIS, and they sign acknowledging their understanding and agreement to follow these guidelines. This process supports accountability and ensures consistent implementation across classrooms. Becca frequently steps into rooms to provide support, offer breaks when needed, and assist staff in managing stressors appropriately. The center also utilizes video review as part of its coaching process, allowing staff to reflect on their practices and discuss evaluations during follow-up conversations. Staff are encouraged to reach out to one another or to Becca whenever support is needed. Overall, the program maintains a strong open-door communication approach, fostering a collaborative and supportive work environment.

Director needs to email consultant by 10/01/26 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been completed.

It is recommended to continue to work with CCRR for support.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

Please enter all staff trainings and certificates into i-PoWer.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 08/07/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.