

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

Name of Center: ABC Learning Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 91 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18849

Street: 15 Nightengale LN **City:** Dubuque **Iowa Zip** 52003 **County:** Dubuque

Mailing Address: 15 Nightengale LN, Dubuque, IA, 52003

Director's Name: Melissa Donovan **Phone Number:** 563-583-6654

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jill Bildstein **E-Mail:** rbirch1087@aol.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-10-2018

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:** 05-16-2018

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

Date Inspected: 07-10-2017

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X **Profit** **Non-Profit** **NA**

Accreditation: **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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	52	20	41	22	135
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 08-01-2018 to 08-01-2020
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate, MSW

Date: 07-12-2018

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 7/10/18. The center owner/director, Melissa Donovan, was present for the visit as were other staff. Melissa accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the licensing visit. The center, at this location has been in operation since 6/4/12. It is noted that Melissa owned a center previous to this with the same name, however, that location closed just prior to this new location opening. Melissa was able to purchase this property and completed extensive remodeling to the building to transform it into a large child care center. Melissa was previously qualified as a director with her experience and training. This is a large center using space on the main floor of the building. There is space upstairs that is currently used for storage and some utilities. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool program.

Program rooms include the following: Little Learners (two years); Discovery Drive (three years); PreK Parkway (four years and voluntary prek room); Stepping Stone Street (school age on non school days and before and after school, voluntary prek room school day); Crayola Court (18 to 24 months); Whipper Snapper Way (12 to 18 months); and Lullaby Lane (six weeks to approximately 12 months). Materials were accessible to the children in all program rooms. Program rooms are large, bright, and colorful. Most program rooms included adjacent restroom areas and sinks within the program rooms as well. Infant rooms included diaper stations and/or restroom areas adjacent with enough sinks to accommodate food preparation and hand washing if used appropriately. All program space was observed.

The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, and snack. The center now participates in the CACFP. The center employs a cook and all meals and snacks are prepared on site in the center's kitchen.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director identifies having nearly 20 years of experience in the child care field and has completed some additional college coursework in the field of education. Melissa and her assistants have continued to work well together, and the program is quite well managed. Licensing information and staff and child files are highly organized. Program rooms are large and offer plenty of space for activities. Program rooms are bright with windows and also have access to the outdoor area. Activity planning is done quite well at this center, and staff appeared quite engaged with the children in program activities. The program participates in the local AEA program to borrow materials to enhance/supplement programming. The center also participates in the Lion's Club program that offers eye exams for the children. The center is in process of reappraisal for four star QRS rating. The center continues to offer "family fun nights" once per month or bi-monthly to encourage family participation at the center. Melissa states the center also organizes a parent support group meeting once monthly called "Together We Can Dubuque" which she describes as similar to a PTA. The center completes a yearly parent survey and uses this to further improve the center. The center director states the center completed a fundraiser and was able to raise a large amount of money to use toward enhancing the outdoor area, additional classroom materials, enhance the kitchen area, and to move forward with expansion of the center to the second floor of the building (once approved by the fire inspector and DHS). The center plans to add a shade structure to the younger children's outdoor play area in the immediate future. The center continues with a strong partnership with the local CCRR and CCNC consultants. The director states the center partners with two local colleges to provide student teaching for several students. The center director states that the

county library comes to the center once per week, and the Dubuque Extension also comes once per week to do classroom work with the school age children.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure items that are required to be sanitary be kept at least 18 inches away from any hand washing sink.
2. Review hand washing procedures with staff as they are posted and ensure staff are at hand washing sinks with children to supervise and ensure children (and staff) follow the procedures as posted.

WRITTEN POLICIES:

1. Update staff training requirements in the staff handbook for the most recent requirements. There are no longer distinctions between staff employed less or more than 20 hours per week.

This center will remain with a full license. Please address the additional concerns noted above so that corrections are obvious at the next licensing visit. No written response to this report is necessary. Thank you.

*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.