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

Name of Center: Beginning Memories Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 39778

Street: 2102 Avenue E **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51501 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 2102 Avenue E, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

Director's Name: Memory Bleth **Phone Number:** 402-578-4477

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** memorybleth@msn.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-26-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2021

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: 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		6	25	6	37
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 07-09-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visits were made to Beginning Memories Preschool on 6-26-2024. Memory Bleth is the director, she has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. The center is a one story brick building located in a residential neighborhood. The property is fenced. The Beginning Memories Preschool Philosophy: "It is our belief that parents are the child's first and foremost important teachers. At Beginning Memories we encourage families to become involved in all aspects of their child's learning process. The focus in our classroom is to facilitate each child's development in a process oriented, language rich environment where children can make choices and act on them. The program is an all-inclusive model servicing children all along the development continuum, facilitating the development of friendship, social interaction and the celebration of diversity."
Preschool and child care services are offered. There are 30 children enrolled. I met with Memory during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.
There were 24 children and two staff present. The children having rest time - some children were taking a nap and some children were watching a movie and then playing outside. The cots weren't covered, this was also noted in my licensing evaluation from last year 7-13-2024 - cots/mats must be covered. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Memory said the program is more relaxed in the summer, daily activities are provided and the program takes some field trips during the summer. During the school year they have weekly themed lesson plans/activities. Many programs visit the center i.e. magician, Children's Museum etc. During the summer they go to a local swimming pool.
Memory has worked with Child Care Resource & Referral.

Nutrition:
The center provides the daily snacks and the children bring their lunch. The lunches are stored in the refrigerator. Make sure you follow the CACFP food guidelines - even if you don't participate in the federal food program. Please refer to the CACFP food guidelines for credible snack options.
Please provide snack menus.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented. Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. An annual fuel burning inspection was done in May 2024. I wasn't able to locate radon testing in an email from you, please email me your current radon test date and score. Please refer to your hand book for information on radon testing and the test frequency requirements.
Bleach/water is used for sanitizing, make sure you follow the three bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing. You need to refer to your specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions, if the directions aren't on the bottle you need to go to the website listed on the bottle for mixing instructions. Bleach/water needs to be mixed daily.

Playground:

There is a grassy area on the side of the building. There is one piece of playground equipment with two swings, a slide and a climbing wall. More surfacing is needed, Memory said she is adding more mulch in August 2024. Please refer to the Handbook for Public Playground Safety put out by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. for information on surfacing, fall zone and equipment.
Monthly playground safety inspections were completed. The new playground safety inspection form was emailed to Memory on 7-9-2024.
The center has a garden.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation. The center has a fifteen passenger van for field trips. The center also takes walking field trips i.e. local swimming pool.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were read and were in good order. Make sure staff complete the training requirements.
Child files were read and were in good order. Memory has ongoing communication with her staff person and volunteer.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Memory has worked in child care for twenty years and she has been in her child care center for twelve years.
Memory was organized, she is very enthusiastic and proud of her center. She is creative and has fun hands on learning experiences for the children.
The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment.
Memory and her staff have excellent interactions with the children.
The center has new faucets, and a new shed.

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

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Additional concerns: Cots/mats need to be covered.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Please provide snack menus.

109.11(7)b Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space:
Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted. I wasn't able to locate radon testing in an email from you, please email me your current radon test date and score. Please refer to your hand book for information on radon testing and the test frequency requirements.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for Beginning Memories Preschool for 9-1-2024 to 9-1-2026.

I wasn't able to locate radon testing in an email from you, please email me your current radon test date and score. Please refer to your hand book for information on radon testing and the test frequency requirements.

*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.