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

Name of Center: Bright Start Daycare and Preschool **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29959

Street: 1003 Okey ST **City:** Hull Iowa **Zip** 51239 **County:** Sioux

Mailing Address: 1003 Okey ST, Hull, IA, 51239

Director's Name: Kristen Niemeyer **Phone Number:** 712-439-1683

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kelsie Vanleeuwen **E-Mail:** brightstart1683@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-09-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-01-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-14-2022

Comments : Program had received a grant to expand the center. The expansion is now completed. The center now has 7 classrooms with a new kitchen and atrium playarea. Capacity has increased from 50 to 107. Program has brought their 3 year old preschool program to now be apart of the new renovation/expansion. The preschool license will be closed and incorporated within the center.

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	32	17	35	23	107
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 04-11-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 07-27-23 and spoke with director Kristen Niemeyer. Kristen has a bachelors degree and 3 years experience with working with children at a childcare center. Kelsey Vanleeuwen - onsite supervisor has 12 years working at the center.

Bright Start Daycare & Preschool is located in a one story building. The center consists of 4 rooms: an infant room, one year old, 2-3 year old and preschool/school age room. The center operates Monday through Friday 6am to 6pm. In May 2021 they changed to serving children ages infant through 1st grade only. The program has applied for grant monies to add onto the building. They are looking at expanding from 4 rooms to 7 rooms and are doubling the size of their building to have 0-9 months old, 9-18month, 18-24, 2 year old, 3 year old, 4 year old, and preschool room. The new addition will be completed in August or September 2023. The program will move over into the new section temporarily while the old addition is updated. The program will be adding a commercial kitchen in this remodel. During the remodel they will make their food at the community center attached to the Preschool Program and will transport meals to the center. They have warmers to be able to transport the food. The remodeling project is estimated to be completed within 90 days so they are hoping to move into the new rooms by the first of the year. Capacity will be modified at that time. Once the remodeling is completed then the preschool program will come over to the building and they will no longer need to use the Preschool Building and the Preschool License will close and come under the centers license.

There are 50 children enrolled in the program, however, 34 children were present. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature with the exception on in the infant room. Nutritious meals and snacks are prepared on-site. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition but not currently on the food program. Menus are posted.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. Fire and tornado drills are documented each month. Radon tests needed to be completed. With the new addition center will complete testing and complete in all child occupied rooms. Center is all electric.

Center Playground
There is a large fenced-in playground area next to the building with a variety of equipment. The playground has swings, sandbox, playhouse slides and climbing apparatus. Center has surfacing material (pea gravel) around climbing equipment. Shade is available on the playground.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
Center has a van, maintenance information was provided. The children are transported to preschool, the swimming pool for swimming lessons, ball games and other activities in town. Once the preschool is brought to the center then they will no longer be transporting and will sell the van.

Goals of the center: is to get on IQ4K and the food program, complete the expansion of the building, bring the preschool program back to the center when building is complete and then only need one license, update the playground, and add an infant playground.

Strengths of the center: Good team of staff who want what's best for the children they serve. Good relationships with families.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center is looking at getting started on IQ4K program.

Center is looking at getting on the food program in the fall.

Center uses a Bright Wheel app for staff and parents to help in communication.

Center emails the parents weekly what the center activities will be during that time

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: Information was missing

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.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant by 09-01-23 confirming that items that are below standards are corrected.

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

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

*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.