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

Name of Center: Bright Beginnings Preschool at AFUMC **Enrollment:** 71 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28379

Street: 206 SW Walnut St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 206 SW Walnut St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Riley Fazio **Phone Number:** 515-964-9566

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Brennan **E-Mail:** brightbeginnings@ankenyfirst.org

Date(s) of Visit: 05-12-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-22-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-01-2025

Comments : fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by Ankeny Fire Dept LT Hood.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			90		90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-28-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 5-13-25. Director, Riley Fazio, was present through the entire visit.

This preschool meets in a wing in the First United Methodist Church in Ankeny, and has been in existence for over 40 years. The church provides the space for the preschool and the preschool is a ministry of the church. Riley Fazio became the director in Sept 2024; She has a bachelor's degree and experience to meet the director criteria. Jennifer Brennan has been the On-Site Supervisor for five years. Both Riley and Jennifer meet qualifications for their positions.

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.

There are several sessions of preschool, plus the Parents Morning Out which is the program for two year old children. A total of six classrooms are used. The classes meet either from 9:00-11:30 am or 12:15-3:15 pm. The four year old program has an option of meeting M-F from 9:00 am to 11:40 am. The preschool offers a two day program, a three day program, a four day program and five day program. The two year old session is from 9:15 am to 11:15 am, parents can choose a M-F, or T-Th or a Wednesday only session.

Room observations/activities: The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum as well as Handwriting Without Tears. The center has added some curriculum for social and emotional skills called "social thinking". The center uses email to communicate with parents. The classrooms offer a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The children were content and engaged in staff lead activities. The staff were in ratio and attentive to the children's needs. The children's art work and other projects were displayed in the classrooms.

Nutrition Practices: The children bring their own snacks. The center provides milk and water. Snack is eaten family style in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securely; discussion over options of how to store emergency medication took place to offer ready access to emergency medications. Handwashing signs are posted. There is a first aid kit in all rooms. Tornado and Fire drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. Emergency exit plans are posted. Radon testing was last completed in 8.30.23 and there has been a radon mitigation system installed in 2022, which indicates the need to repeat testing every two years. HVAC is maintained by the church. There are carbon monoxide detectors in the halls.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented completed as required. There are smaller play structures. This playground is enclosed in an atrium that is located in the middle of the building, has shade structures and safety surfacing of wood chips. The playground appears in good repair.

Administrative Review: Fliers for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, and no-smoking signs were posted. Three child files were reviewed with two needing an annual update; Three staff files were reviewed. All necessary information was included; there is an outstanding question of certain class work can substitute for essentials training.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This preschool has longevity in the community, and is one of the first preschools in Ankeny.

All of the teachers have a Bachelor's degree, mainly in Early Childhood Education.

This preschool has a smaller staff to child ratio, and they offer a faith based preschool program.

The enrollment is always strong and there is a waiting list for all sessions.

There is strong family involvement with volunteers and committees.

The preschool has a strong reputation in the community and the children are ready for kindergarten.

The preschool has a Facebook page and website. The preschool sends out monthly newsletters.

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

109.7(8): The Director, On-site supervisor, and any person designated a lead in the absence of supervisory staff shall have all completed all pre-service orientation training outlined in 109.7(1).

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The children take turns brining in snack and the program ensures the snacks are creditable.

The teachers were consistently observed engaged in group activities and responsive to the children while maintaining good structure.

*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.