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

Name of Center: Sugar Babies Academy **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51827

Street: 2550 73rd ST **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50322 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2550 73rd ST, Urbandale, IA, 50322

Director's Name: Janiya Brackenridge and Alivia McVicker **Phone Number:** 515-270-0253

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** lenaearku@yahoo.com sugarbabiesacademyabc123@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-17-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-11-2024

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

Date Inspected: 06-23-2025

Comments : State Fire Marshal. The center had some items to correct that they are working on.

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 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	10	16	9	0	35
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-18-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year inspection visit was conducted on 7/17/25. The owner was present throughout the visit as were the two new directors.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Sugar Babies Academy is a center in Urbandale, IA that was given permission to open on 6/1/22. The center serves children ages two through five years of age using their own learning curriculum that is based off of other learning curriculums. The center is open year-round. Drop in services are available. The center would prefer at least a 24 hour notice to ensure services for drop in care are available. There are a total of three classrooms. The two year old room has a capacity of 10 children. The two/three year old classroom has a capacity of 16 children. The four/five year old classroom has a capacity of nine children.

Lenae Arku is the owner of this center. Lenae is also the owner of Sugar Babies Nursery in Urbandale, Sugar Babies South in Des Moines, and Smarty Pants Childcare in Des Moines. Alivia McVicker and Janiya Brackenridge. Both individuals have experience working in child care and have taken training.

During the visit, the older children were outside on the playground. In the youngest room, a staff member was reading a book to children. In the other classroom, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment remains steady.

There are drop in services available.

The center was clean and had good natural lighting throughout.

Weekly individual staff meetings are held and monthly all-staff meetings are held.

The center works with their CCR&R consultant as needed.

There is a good mix of tenured and newer staff.

This is center, Sugar Babies South, and Sugar Babies Nursery have the same handbooks and can share staff as needed. There is continuity.

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

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required: Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present. At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting. If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained. Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained. When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present. For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center's hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center. Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded.
There was an eight year old child mixed in with three and four year old children. Ratio requirements don't allow this age group combination. Children four and older and be combined together.

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.
Two children were missing dentist information. All children enrolled, regardless of age, need to have listed a doctor and a dentist. Information required includes: Names, addresses, phone numbers.

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.
One child was missing a current physical.

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
At start of the inspection visit, a two/three year old child was in a classroom by themselves with no staff supervision. This child should have been outside with her class and staff. THIS ISSUE WAS IMMEDIATELY CORRECTED.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
In a two year old classroom, there was a dangling cord to the TV monitor that needed to be more securely fastened to the wall.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
There were too many items on the playground. These should be reduced by half.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The written lesson plan for the week was incomplete in the three/four year old classroom.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
On one day for one of the snacks, a second credible food item was not listed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed in classrooms 5/30/25 - 6/2/25. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual fuel burning appliance inspection/HVAC equipment was last completed on 6/24/25.

The center has a 15 passenger van that they share with their other, related centers. The van is not currently being used at this location. It was noted at last year's inspection that the windshield will need to be repaired/replaced as it was cracked.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload their professional development training hours into their I - Power profiles. If any staff are no longer employed with the center, their I - Power profile should be unlinked from the center.

It was noted that in the middle section classroom, the door sticks.

It was noted that one child will need to have their immunization records transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form.

The center should continue to work with CCR&R.

*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.