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

Name of Center: Building Bright Beginnings **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21572

Street: 202 Byron AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 202 Byron AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Sami Stamatiades **Phone Number:** 319-287-6094

On-Site Supervisor(s): Debi Wilson **E-Mail:** bbbsami@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-13-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 10-26-2023

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	23	4	11	6	44
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 03-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 03/13/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Building Bright Beginnings in Waterloo. I met with Sami Stamatiades, the owner and director. She has owned and operated the center since December 2001, but she had been employed at the center since September 1996. Debi Wilson is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Wilson has been employed at the center since 1996 and she is the lead teacher in the infant room. There are thirteen staff members employed by the center, including Ms. Stamatiades.

Building Bright Beginnings operates out of a free-standing building. It operates Monday through Friday 5:30 am until 5:30 pm. The center offers a preschool program that operates daily from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. There are currently 52 children enrolled in the center. The program serves infants through school-aged children.

The center operates out of three rooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for two of the rooms and one room uses artificial lighting. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, woodworking, sensory table, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum as a guide in creating lesson plans but also implements other resources. The center prepares activities based on weekly themes. The themes are the same for the entire center. Lesson plans were posted and available for review.

Daily sheets are maintained on children under the age of two.

Cribs are used to nap for infants and cots are used for the older children.

There was a phone with emergency numbers on each level. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in February 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site on each level. On the upper level it was in the landing outside the infant room and on the lower level it was on a shelf by the furnace room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/26/23.

The center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. There is a kitchen on-site where meals are prepared. Tammy Engelhardt is the cook, and she also helps in the classrooms. The center serves breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The meals are served in the classrooms. Staff members prepare the plates for the children and all dishes are returned to the kitchen and washed using the three-step method. Menus are on a six-week rotating schedule. Menus and allergies were posted.

Parents provide the formula, cereal and jar baby food. The center does not provide any food until they are on table food. The infant room has highchairs for the younger children in the room and the older children sit at small tables. The highchairs had working safety straps. Bottles are returned to the kitchen to be washed.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There was one refrigerator and a chest freezer, and each had thermometers. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is also a small closed off area in the infant room where staff prepares the food and formula. There is a refrigerator in this area and thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing tables. Bottles were clearly labeled. I discussed diaper changes with the staff members and proper procedures were followed.

The center has a fenced in playground area. The center just replaced the fence with one that provides them more privacy. Wood chips are used for surface cushioning. The play area has slides. a tunnel, teeter totter, playhouses, basketball hoops, a climbing dome, transportation toys and they just added a stationary train for the children to play on. There is a picnic table and benches for the children to rest. There is also a small grassy area with a playhouse.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members have terrific knowledge of the children and their routines. They have great interaction with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and introduced them to activities. They went out of their way to make a new child to the class feel comfortable and have him join activities. Staff members were singing with the children to entertain them. The staff members were nurturing. They worked on tummy time and sitting up in the infant room. Staff members had great teamwork. The children appeared to enjoy themselves at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Stamatiades states she has several staff members who have longevity with the program. This provides the program with stability.

Staff members have good relationships with one another. They have great teamwork. They help each other as needed.

Ms. Stamatiades states parents return to the center after having additional children or trying other programs.

Ms. Stamatiades states they get children from parent referrals which makes her feel good that they have a good reputation.

Ms. Stamatiades states they received the money from DHHS and they plan to give staff members bonuses and buy new high chairs with the money.

Ms. Stamatiades states they bring Central Rivers AEA to the center to observe and work with children who have behavioral concerns and other identified issues.

Staff members removed items in the infant room when they were placed in their mouths so they could be sanitized.

The program has cameras in each room and security at the entrance.

The center is a bus stop for Kittrell school-aged children.

Ms. Stamatiades is flexible with the families she works with.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.