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

Name of Center: Stepping Stones Child Care Center Inc **Enrollment:** 110 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26087

Street: 701 S 3rd Ave **City:** Winterset Iowa **Zip** 50273 **County:** Madison

Mailing Address: 701 S 3rd Ave, Winterset, IA, 50273

Director's Name: Angie Kirk **Phone Number:** 515-462-5831

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cortni Kirk, Ambre Benge, Terri Finnell, Donna Christiansen **E-Mail:** dacmab242003@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-06-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-27-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-01-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years. The date on the form was listed as 10/1/23 although that fell on a Sunday.

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	15	24	44	60	143
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 03-06-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 3/6/24. The owner/director was present throughout this visit.

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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Stepping Stones Child Care Center is located in Winterset, IA. The owner/director is Angie Kirk. Angie has been the owner and director of the center since 1999. Cortni Kirk is one on-site supervisor. Cortni has an AA degree in Liberal Arts and has worked at this center off and on for several years. Ambre Benge is another on-site supervisor as of 2/7/17. Ambre has worked at the center since 2009. Terri Finnell is the third on-site supervisor. Terri has a BA degree and has worked at this center since 2013. Donna Christiansen is the most recent on-site supervisor as of 4/17/18. Donna has worked at Stepping Stones for many years.

The center serves children two weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age using a combination of the Creative Learning Curriculum, Al's Pals Curriculum, and Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum. There are five classrooms. The infant room has a capacity of 12 children. The toddler classroom has a capacity of 13 children, but the center caps the room at 12 children. The two/three year old classroom has a capacity of 11 children. The Pre-K classroom has a capacity of 47 children. The school-age classroom has a capacity of 60 children.

During the visit, children were observed washing their hands and then sitting down to eat lunch, playing on the playground, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms. Staff were spaced out in all areas as well and interacting and supervising children closely.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owner/director has her National Administrator Credential.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The center participates in the food program (CACFP).

The center has a good mix of tenured (some over 15 years) and new staff. Monthly staff meetings are held. There is an element of the center having a family environment yet management having clear expectations for the center.

Staff files were again nicely organized. Staff are encouraged to get more than the minimum required amount of professional development training hours required.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

The center participates in the 5-2-1-0 program as it relates to a healthy lifestyle.

Seven staff members have again completed their CDA's and/or in the process of obtaining degrees.

The center is uses the online application Brightwheel to even better communicate with parents.

Enrollment remains steady.

The center has again done some renovations within the center over the past year which includes new cabinets, appliances, painting, and putting in an actual wall to better separate two classrooms.

Staff bios and credentials are posted near the main entrance.

A security camera system is in place.

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

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 0
Number invalid: 4 immunization records observed by randomly flipping through the center's immunization binder were either not signed, dated, or both.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one expired inhaler medication. The center should get with the parent and have the child's doctor sign/date a note that this medication is still good to use while waiting for a new inhaler.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
1. Fall zone space was insufficient (need at least six feet) for a climber in the younger children's playground. The structure will need to be moved and/or some of the logs of wood removed.
2. Pedals are needed on at least one tricycle.
3. There is at least one bolt that needs to be recapped along the fence line.

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.
Last week's lesson plan was still posted in the two year old classroom. This week's lesson plan for the two year old classroom wasn't available.

109.15(1): 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.
The time between lunch and PM snack needs to be altered some as discussed in the school-age classroom.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 7/13/21 - 10/18/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Radon can now be done every five years if levels are below 4.0. However, the center has test kits ready for classrooms now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, the center can remain on a five-year testing plan. If 4.0 or higher in any classroom, the center will have to retest and then remain on a two-year plan for testing.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed on 12/27/23.

For transportation/field trips, the center has two vans and a bus.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I-Power profiles.

It was noted that one child is within their 30 day grace period of needing an updated physical.

*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.