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

Name of Center: Bright Beginnings Preschool at AFUMC **Enrollment:** 5 **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: Tiffany Hoffman **Phone Number:** 515-964-9566

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

Date(s) of Visit: 04-01-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 03-06-2024

Comments :

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:** 04-21-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visited was completed 4-1-24. The Director was present throughout the 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. Tiffany Hoffman became the Director in August of 2020. Tiffany has an Associates Degree in Business Management and six years of experience in a preschool setting, two of these years at Bright Beginnings. Jennifer Brennan has been the On-Site Supervisor for five years. Both Tiffany 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 session 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 rooms are in ratio. The children appeared content and staff was nurturing/responsive. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum as well as Handwriting Without Tears. The center uses email to communicate with parents.

Nutrition Practices: The children bring their own snacks. The center provides milk and water.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securely. 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 2022 and there has been a radon mitigation system installed in 2022. 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 with chain link, 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. Five child files were reviewed; the center does need to establish yearly updates; there were two over due physicals more than 18 months in arrears. Three staff files were reviewed, two needed updated mandatory reporter training and one needed an updated physical. (which was set to occur within days of this visit).

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 a 83% return rate for children in the program. The program does not have to advertise, the majority of their enrollment comes through word of mouth.

The preschool offers programs and activities for families and children. The preschool was able to do their art show this year and their Christmas program. They had their grandparents day and did separate classroom parties.

There is strong family involvement with volunteers and committees.

The Director and On-site supervisor come to the program with extensive experience, training and education. They are a strong team and work well together.

The preschool has a strong reputation in the community and the children are ready for kindergarten. The preschool receives positive feedback from the community and schools.

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

There is staff longevity at this program, two staff have been with the program for eight years, one at 6 years, one at 4 years and one at two years. The staff work well together and are a strong team.

The parents are supportive of the preschool and grateful for the program.

The director feels they are a very open and welcoming program, that is also diverse.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1

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

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment. For school-age programs in the child’s school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed in May of 2022 and all rooms but one was under the 4.0 cutoff. A long term test was completed in one of the rooms, which resulted in the program installing a radon mitigation system in 2022..

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

*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.