Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Beginning Memories Preschool

Provider No.: 39778

Address: 2102 Avenue E, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Memory Bleth

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 4025784477

E-Mail: memorybleth@msn.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/02/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2024 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/14/2021

Comments: Fire inspections are due every three years. Please get me the most recent fire marshal inspection.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		6	25	6	37
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Beginning Memories Preschool on 12/2/25. Memory Bleth is the director. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. She has worked with children for over 20 years. The center is a one-story brick building located in a residential neighborhood. The property is fenced. The Beginning Memories Preschool Philosophy: "It is our belief that parents are the child's first and foremost important teachers. At Beginning Memories, we encourage families to become involved in all aspects of their child's learning process. The focus in our classroom is to facilitate each child's development in a process oriented, language rich environment where children can make choices and act on them. The program is an all-inclusive model servicing children all along the development continuum, facilitating the development of friendship, social interaction and the celebration of diversity." Preschool and child care services are offered. There are six children enrolled. I met with Memory during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There were six children and one staff present. The children were having table time, snack, and then Memory began practicing letters and sounds with the children. Memory said the children bring two blankets from home for their cots. They are washed every other week unless a child is sick then they are washed more often. Memory had excellent interactions with the children. She was positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Daily activities are provided, and the program takes some field trips during the summer. During the school year they have weekly themed lesson plans/activities. Memory creates her own lesson plans. Many programs visit the center i.e. magician, Children's Museum, etc. During the summer they go to a local swimming pool. Memory has worked with Child Care Resource & Referral. Memory rotates toys monthly.

Nutrition:
The center provides two snacks per day, and the children bring their lunch. The lunches are stored in the refrigerator. Make sure you follow the CACFP food guidelines even if you don't participate in the federal food program. Please refer to the CACFP food guidelines for credible snack options. Please provide snack menus.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented but were not current. Proper medication procedures are not being followed. Please make sure parents complete the medication administration form prior to providing any medication to a child. Contact your Child Care Nurse Consultant for instructions on how to properly follow medication procedures. An annual fuel burning inspection was done in April 2025. There is not a current radon test. Please complete radon testing and then refer to your handbook for information on the testing frequency requirements. Bleach/water is used for sanitizing. Please make sure you follow the three-bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing. You need to refer to your specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions. If the directions aren't on the bottle, you need to go to the website listed on the bottle for mixing instructions. Memory reports

that the bleach/water is mixed daily.

Playground:
There is a grassy area on the side of the building. There is one piece of playground equipment with two swings, a slide, and a climbing wall. Previously it was reported that more surfacing was needed. Memory reported she added more mulch in 2024. Due to the playground being covered in snow, it was not possible to see if there was enough fall surfacing. Please refer to the Handbook for Public Playground Safety put out by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for information on surfacing, fall zone, and equipment. Monthly playground safety inspections were completed but not consistently.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation. The center takes walking field trips.

Administrative records:
Memory's staff file was read. Memory is missing the required eight annual training hours. Two children's files were read. One was missing the annual physical exam, one was missing the name and number of a dentist, and both were missing permission for field trips, and permission form as to who is allowed to pick up the children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Memory has worked in child care for over twenty years and she has been in her child care center since 2011. Memory was organized. She is very enthusiastic and proud of her center. She is creative and has fun hands-on learning experiences for the children. The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment. Memory has excellent interactions with the children. The center has new faucets and a new shed.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Memory does not have the required eight hours of annual training.

109.9(2)i: All children are required to have an annual physical. All children's files must have a current name and number for doctors and dentists. All children's files are required to have permission for field tripes and an annual permission form as to who is allowed to pick the child up from the center.

109.10(13)b: The center has not been completing and documenting monthly fire/tornado drills.

109.11(4)b: The center has not been completing monthly playground safety checks.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for Beginning Memories Preschool for 9-1-2024 to 9-1-2026.

Please email me your radon testing and fire inspection.

Date: 12/08/2025

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.