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

Name of Center: Beginning Memories Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 39778

Street: 2102 Avenue E **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51501 **County:** Pottawattamie

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

Director's Name: Memory Bleth **Phone Number:** 402-578-4477

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** memorybleth@msn.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-13-2023

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: 10-14-2021

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: 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		6	25	6	37
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 07-14-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visits were made to Beginning Memories Preschool on 7-13-2023. Memory Bleth is the director, she has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. 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 24 children enrolled. I met with Memory on both of my visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great, it is nicely decorated. There is a great variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.
There were 24 children and three staff present. The children were eating lunch and then having quiet time/nap time. Make sure cots/mats are covered. Memory stated the sheets for the cots were being washed. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Memory said the program is more relaxed in the summer, daily activities are provided and the program takes several field trips during the summer. During the school year they have weekly themed lesson plans/activities. Many programs visit the center i.e. magician, balloon lady, puppet show, Children's Museum etc. During the summer they go to a local swimming pool.
Memory has worked with Child Care Resource & Referral.

Nutrition:
The center provides the daily snacks 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.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented. Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. An annual fuel burning inspection was done on 5-26-2023.
Radon testing is needed. This is a repeat violation, Memory said she would be complete the radon test as soon as possible. Please email me your radon test results upon receipt.
Staff purses were accessible to the children. Please have staff store their personal belongings and purses somewhere not accessible to children. Make sure medications are store in a location not accessible to children.
Please review your sanitizing procedure with your child care nurse consultant. Please use 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 were using Clorox wipes for cleaning and sanitizing.

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. 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.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation. The center has a fifteen passenger van for field trips. The center also takes walking field trips.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were read and were in good order. Make sure the staff complete the required training requirements.
Memory reported that all staff are signed up for first aid/CPR training in August.
Child files were read and were in good order expect for your registration form needs emergency medical contact information for the dentist, the name and phone number for the dentist is required. Please have the the children's files updated with the dentist information (please update your registration form to include dentist information). Make sure all immunizations are on the required Iowa form. If immunizations aren't on the Iowa form please refer to your child care nurse consultant to have her transfer them.
Monthly staff meetings are held.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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.
Enrollment has increased.
The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment.
Memory and her staff have excellent interactions with the children.

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

109.9(2)b: 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.
Information lacking: Child files need emergency contact information for the dentist. The name and phone number of a dentist is required.
Child files were read and were in good order expect for your registration form needs emergency medical contact information for the dentist, the name and phone number for the dentist is required. Please have the the children's files updated with the dentist information (please update your registration form to include dentist information). Make sure all immunizations are on the required Iowa form. If immunizations aren't on the Iowa form please refer to your child care nurse consultant to have her transfer them.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Staff purses were accessible to the children. Please have staff store their personal belongings and purses somewhere not accessible to children. Make sure medications are store in a location not accessible to children.
Make sure cots/mats are covered. Memory stated the sheets for the cots were being washed.
Please review your sanitizing procedure with your child care nurse consultant. Please use 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 were using Clorox wipes for cleaning and sanitizing.

REPEAT VIOLATION 109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
Radon testing is needed. This is a repeat violation, Memory said she would be complete the radon test as soon as possible. Please email me your radon test results upon receipt.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for Beginning Memories Preschool for 9-1-2022 to 9-1-2024.
Off year licensing visit 7-13-2023.

Please complete radon testing as soon as possible and email me the radon test results when you receive them.

*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.