Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Beyond the Bell-Walnut Hills Elementary

Provider No.: 44017

Address: 4240 NW 156th ST, Urbandale, IA, 50323

County: Polk

Director's Name: Andrea Wilmes and Rich Miller

On-Site Supervisor: Jacob Harder

Phone Number: 5159875161

E-Mail: awilmes@waukeeschools.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/12/2025

Licensing Period: 01/01/2025 to 01/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/13/2024

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	262	262
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 11/12/25. The on-site supervisor was present for 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.

Beyond the Bell - Walnut Hills Elementary is a school-age program located within the Walnut Hills Elementary School in Urbandale, IA. The center uses the cafeteria, gym, and outdoor playground area. The program was previously supervised by the Department of Education and was given permission to open under HHH (formerly known as DHS) licensing/supervision on 9/2/14. During the school year, children who attend this school attend this Beyond the Bell program. However, during summer months, there is open enrollment. Hours are 6:30am - 6:00pm during the summer months and no-school days. During the school year, children attend 6:30am - 8:40am and/or 3:40pm - 6:00pm. There are also several school early out days throughout the year. The program is one of several Beyond the Bell programs and they all use a similar learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums.

All Beyond the Bell programs are overseen by a Board. The directors of this program and the other Beyond the Bell programs are Andrea Wilmes and Rich Miller. Andrea is also the director of the three Wee Care centers in Waukee and Vince Meyer. Both individuals meet the requirements for director. The on-site supervisor at this location is Jacob Harder as of 11/2022. Jacob has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the gym. In the cafeteria, some children were eating

breakfast (provided by the school). Other children were observed in free-choice play. Some children were playing card games. Some children were playing with dramatic play and manipulative toys. Some children were drawing. In the gym, all children were engaged in a large motor activity. Staff in both areas were spaced out and interacting with children. Toys and other equipment are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily.

Child enrollment remains steady at 96 children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate with each other throughout the center.

A good system is in place for gathering attendance when school dismisses and children go to the program.

All of the Beyond the Bell programs have information posted online through the Waukee School District Website.

Staff photos are posted by one of the main parent boards.

Monthly staff meetings are held. Directors from this program meet with other western-suburb, school-age programs quarterly for meetings. On-site supervisors of the all the BTB programs and Wee Care programs also meet monthly. Monthly staff meetings are held for staff who work at this program.

Staff from BTB, Wee Care, and Vince Meyer are interchangeable between sites as needed.

The program has a good working relationship with other school personnel.

The on-site supervisor is organized with daily activities, inspections, paperwork, etc.

All of the BTB programs have assistant on-site supervisors in addition to on-site supervisors.

All BTB programs have a behavioral specialist and curriculum specialist.

Staff reportedly work well together. There is a good mix of tenured and new staff.

Enrollment remains steady.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a: All files contain: Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check. Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable. Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
One staff member did not have fingerprint results in their file. This person also works at one of the Wee Care programs so fingerprint results might be in their file at that location per the on-site supervisor.

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
Staff need to physically observed children go from one area to another while at the program (in this case, from the cafeteria to the restroom).

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

1. One staff member did not have fingerprint results in their file. This person also works at one of the Wee Care programs so fingerprint results might be in their file at that location per the on-site supervisor.

2. Staff need to physically observed children go from one area to another while at the program (in this case, from the cafeteria to the restroom).

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The program is exempt from environmental testing as they are located in a school building and only serve school-age children.

The center goes on field trips and will contract with the school to take a school bus for transportation. The center will also bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

For nutrition, the center provides the AM snack and PM snack during the summer months and No School days and families/children are required to provide their own lunches. The center will store these lunches as needed. During the school days, the school provides breakfast and the center provides PM snack.

I - Power was discussed at the visit. All staff should have I - Power profiles and be uploading professional development training certificates. Any staff no longer with the program should be unlinked.

It was previously noted that the program uses Ridgeworks for permission for such things as field trips, photos, and acknowledgement of children having physicals and immunizations on file with the school.

One new staff member has six months from their hire date to get a physical on file.

On the playground, the "sausage handles" need to be repaired or replaced as they are cracked and create a hazard.

Date: 11/12/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.