

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

Name of Center: Growing Bear Day Care & Preschool Inc **Enrollment:** 65 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18344

Street: 526 4th St NW **City:** Waukon Iowa **Zip** 52172 **County:** Allamakee

Mailing Address: 526 4th St NW, Waukon, IA, 52172

Director's Name: Jessica Waters **Phone Number:** 563-568-2939

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sarita Becker **E-Mail:** growingbeardaycare@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-06-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-22-2024

Comments : Compliance on 03/11/24

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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	12	20	19	30	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 03-19-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 02/06/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Growing Bear Day Care & Preschool, Inc. in Waukon. I met with Jessica “Jessie” Waters, the director and owner of the center. Ms. Waters has owned and operated the center since 1997. She has an AA in childcare and child development, and she has her National Administrator Credential (NAC). She is also a member of NAEYC. Sarita Becker is the on-site supervisor, and she is in charge when Ms. Waters is not present. She has been employed at the center since January 2006 and the on-site supervisor since August 2020. Ms. Becker has an AA in early childhood education and an AA in human services. There are thirteen staff members employed by the center, including Jessie.

The program is in a free-standing building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 6:00 pm and operates year-around. The program serves infants through school age children. The center partners with the Allamakee Community School District for the Iowa voluntary four-year-old preschool program. Dawanda Ryder is the teacher of the voluntary preschool class. She has an AA in education and a BA in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. The voluntary preschool hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm. There are currently 65 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infants (six weeks to 14-15 months), a room for children 14-15 months until they turn two. A room for two-year-olds, a room for three-year-olds, and a shared room for four-year-old and school age children. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, the children’s art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children’s birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Ipads, art, dramatic play, play dough, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The voluntary preschool class uses the Creative Curriculum. She also uses Handwriting Without Tears, Jolly Phonics, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, and Tera West math and literacy curriculum used by the school. Ms. Ryder completes the GOLD assessments on students. The other rooms use a variety of resources to develop their lesson plans. The length of the theme depends on the children’s interest level and topic. Lesson plans were available for review in each room except for the preschool room. The preschool class was operating out of a different room and did not have a copy of the lesson plan.

Emergency numbers with the program’s address and phone number were posted near each phone in the program. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and emergency evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Daily schedules must be posted in all rooms. It was not posted in the 14-15 month old room and it was not posted in the two-year-old room. The rooms recently changed the age group they were caring for and

are making new daily schedules. Get them posted as soon as possible.

Cribs and cots are used to nap in the infant room and cots are used to nap for the older children.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in March 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program installed a radon mitigation system in late 2014.

The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located on each level of the center. It is in the bathroom in the three-year-old room on the main level and in a closet by the furnace on the lower level. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/22/24, with compliance on 03/11/24.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Ms. Waters is the cook for the program, and she has completed the CACFP and Serv Safe training. The program provides breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. The menus are on a four-week rotation and there is a separate series of menus prepared for May through November and November through May.

Parents provide formula, baby food and cereal. Bottles are kept at the center and washed and sanitized in the rooms.

The kitchen is in the lower level. It was observed to be clean and organized. Menus and allergies were posted. There is a refrigerator and chest freezer, and thermometers were present. There is one double bowl sink and handwashing procedures were posted. The center uses a dishwasher to clean and sanitize dishes. There is a refrigerator in each of the rooms and thermometers were present. Food is stored off the ground and food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen. In three of the rooms there were chips, crackers, Triscuits and rice cakes were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container.

The program uses Purell Food Service Surface Sanitizer to sanitize food tables and Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant disinfect changing tables.

Handwashing procedures and diaper changing procedures were posted in all the necessary locations. I observed or discussed diaper changes in the rooms. The staff member in the 14-15 month old room kept the gloves on throughout the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to the new diaper and dressing the child. I did explain this to the staff member. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

There is a fenced in play area for the children. There is an area for older children and one for younger children. The outdoor area is in a natural setting and there is no climbing equipment. There is a playhouse located on wood chips. There are "boom whackers" on the fence so the children can play music and there is an easel outside so the children can enjoy art. There are picnic tables for the children. There is a cement area for children to ride bikes and the center has helmets for the children. There is a sandbox with a shade structure. Trees are also in the area to provide shade.

The area for the younger children is located under a deck area. There is also a kitchen set and some riding toys and pushing toys.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. Parent resources are also located in this area.

Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. I observed staff members sitting with the children and reading them books in a fun and expressive manner. They were nurturing and held children on their laps. They had fun activities to help teach the children. Staff members were singing and dancing with children. They offered the children choices and talked with the children about sharing. They practiced good handwashing in the rooms and removed toys that children put in their mouth so they could be sanitized. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program had a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expired on 01/31/24.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each room and outside of the center.

Ms. Waters states they serve good families. They receive good feedback and are happy with the care the children receive.

Ms. Waters states happy families spread the word throughout the community and this brings new families into the program.

Ms. Waters states she has devoted, great staff members. They are interested in the children's development and education.

Ms. Waters states they have a good curriculum. They work well with Keystone for resources.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

The program is a bus stop for the children.

Ms. Waters puts the money she makes back into the program by purchasing new centers and paying her staff members.

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

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.

In three of the rooms there were chips, crackers, Triscuits and rice cakes were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.