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

Name of Center: Above and Beyond **Enrollment:** 55 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52395

Street: 6151 Thornton AVE STE 500 **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50321 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 6151 Thornton AVE STE 500, Des Moines, IA, 50321

Director's Name: Mark Schelle **Phone Number:** 515-414-0684

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mindy Garcia and Nichole Greene **E-Mail:** aboveandbeyonddsm@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-14-2025

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:** 03-14-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-26-2024

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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: 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	29	17	47	8	101
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 03-17-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 3/14/25. The owner/director, Mark Schelle, and on-site supervisor, Nichole Greene, were both present throughout the 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.

Above and Beyond (formerly known as Leaps and Bounds Children's Academy) is a child care center located in Des Moines, IA serving children ages six weeks in age to 12 years in age (although school-age children primarily attend only during the summer months as well as school breaks during the school year). The center opened for business in 3/2011. The center moved into their current location in January 2024. The center utilizes their own learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums.

For the new building, the infant classroom has a capacity of 11 children. The one year old classroom has a capacity of 18 children. The two year old classroom has a capacity of 17 children. The three year old classroom has a capacity of 19 children. One four year old classroom has a capacity of 10 children. Another four/five year old classroom has a capacity of 18 children. The family room/school-age classroom has a capacity of eight children.

The owner/director of the center is Mark Schelle. Mark has his BA degree in business and has worked in child care for many years. There are two on-site supervisors. Mindy Garcia has worked in child care for a number of years and meets the qualifications for her position. Mindy also spends a great deal of time in the classroom setting. Nichole Greene is the other on-site supervisor. Nichole has several years' worth of experience working in child care. Nichole also tracks the majority of staff and children files as well as inspection forms.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, napping on cots, playing outside on the playground, washing their hands, and eating lunch. Staff were interacting with children and spaced out among the classrooms and playground area.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is now located in a newly renovated building.

Each classroom has a first-aid kit. There are also extra first-aid supplies.

The center employs a full-time cook.

There is family room set up for parents who may want to visit their child during the center's hours of operation outside of the classroom. Staff also utilize this room for completing online trainings. There is also a staff lounge.

There is a cleaning crew that cleans the center outside of center hours one time a week. This is in addition to the staff and their cleaning responsibilities.

The owner again stated he had a good group of core staff and they all work well with each other and take pride in their work/classrooms. There are several tenured staff at this center. Staff turnover is low.

The owner stated the center also has a good working relationship with the other businesses on the grounds. There are good community partnership with other businesses. Finally, the owner felt he and his staff have a really good relationship with families they serve.

Staff have stated they liked how ownership treats them fair, but had high expectations for them and checks in on them to see how they are doing, but also to get to know them. There is a real feel of a family environment.

The owner/director has his NAC certification.

Staff photos are posted in the main hallway.

Quarterly staff meetings are held.

Several staff are involved in the TEACH and WAGES programs. Most lead teachers have degrees.

Several staff are bi-lingual.

The on-site supervisors are both involved with the STEM advisory council within the metro.

Some playground renovations have been completed within the past year.

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

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.
There are still some bolts along the second playground fence and gate that need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS SEVERAL BOLTS WERE CUT/CAPPED.

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.
The inspection invoice was missing on the day of the visit and at the time of this report.

109.12(4): Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.
Spacing between children napping on cots needs to be three feet apart. Children napping in cribs also needs to be three feet apart unless there are Plexiglass sides (top/bottom) on the cribs. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon was completed in the new building in 12/2023. All classroom came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual HVACC units were inspected just prior to the center opening for business in 1/2024 and were recently again completed per the owner, although the invoice was missing.

The center does not go on field trips. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations for the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. The center is beginning the IQ4K process. All staff appear to have I-Power profiles and training certificates are being uploaded.

It is recommended an unused cot be used as a top cot cover when cots are being stored.

It is recommended at least one authorized pick up person be listed besides parents for children in their paperwork.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent in on 3/14/25.

*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.