Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Bright Beginnings Of Osceola County

Provider No.: 29564

Address: 921 1st ST NE, Sibley, IA, 51249

County: Osceola

Director's Name: Madison Van Engen

On-Site Supervisor: Dawn Myers

Phone Number: 7127542166

E-Mail: maddybrightbeginnings@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/02/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/25/2025

Comments:

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

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

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	24	12	54	38	128
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at Bright Beginnings Childcare Center in Sibley, Iowa, on April 2, 2026. Although Director Madison VanEngen was not present at the time of the visit, I was warmly welcomed by longtime staff member Dawn Meyers and Assistant Director Carlie Doeden. Dawn has been part of this center since 1996, and her familiarity and genuine care for the program were immediately noticeable.

Bright Beginnings is located in a building attached to the elementary school and includes six classrooms serving infants through school-age children. As I walked through the center, I was able to observe every room, as well as daily routines, nutrition practices, safety procedures, the playground, and various administrative components.

There are 103 children enrolled in this program and 57 children present at the time of my visit.

The center has a warm, inviting feel from the moment you enter. The welcoming paint colors and the staff-introduction bulletin board create a positive first impression for families. Hallways and classrooms were filled with children's artwork—at the time of my visit, many Easter-themed creations were proudly displayed. Every classroom offered a rich variety of materials designed to engage children, including books, art supplies, building materials, puzzles, puppets, dramatic play props, and other hands-on learning items. Staff shared that they use The Creative Curriculum, which focuses on exploration, play-based learning, and nurturing the whole child. Several staff members have been trained in PBIS, a framework that encourages positive behavior and supports children's social-emotional development. One of the tools the center uses is "Tucker Turtle," a friendly character who helps children learn how to pause, calm their bodies, take deep breaths, and think through solutions when they feel upset. This calm and thoughtful approach was reflected in the classrooms I visited.

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Each classroom has its own bathroom, and all were clean, organized, and equipped with illustrated hand-washing guides. I observed staff and children consistently practicing proper hand-washing routines. Daily schedules and menus were posted in each room. The center has taken thoughtful steps to support safety, including an alarm system on playground gates, a buzzer on the front entrance to signal if a child exits, and cameras throughout the inside and outside of the building.

The center's staffing approach allows the same teachers to remain in their assigned classrooms, helping children build close and trusting relationships with consistent caregivers. I observed diapering practices that were completed carefully and correctly. Staff shared that they have been working closely with CCR&R and recently completed Safe Sleep and Diapering training.

Each classroom was equipped with a fully stocked first aid kit, stored safely out of children's reach and clearly marked. Next to each kit was a binder of emergency information along with a flashlight. The consistency and organization of these materials show thoughtful preparation and attention to safety across the entire center.
The center participates in the CACFP food program and rotates menus monthly. In the kitchen area, I observed clean refrigerators maintained at appropriate temperatures and proper food-storage practices. The school district provides lunches, while the center provides breakfast and snacks. All menus were posted as required.

Outdoor play areas were well-maintained and included rubber surfacing around equipment, as well as slides, swings, climbing structures, a sandbox, and a riding area. All pieces of equipment were in good condition, and shade was available for children. Radon testing has been completed, with results in the normal range. Staff confirmed there are no fuel-burning appliances in the building.

Overall, Bright Beginnings felt like a place where children are known, cared for, and surrounded by adults who genuinely enjoy being part of their day. The center was warm, organized, and thoughtfully prepared. It was clear that the staff take pride in what they do, and that the children benefit from the stability, safety, and kindness woven into every part of the program.

The goal of this program is to be certified in IQ4K.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The staff have truly come together as a unified and supportive team, and their collective experience is evident in the calm, steady way the center operates. There is a renewed sense of purpose and commitment among them—a shared belief that they can continue growing and achieving great things together. Their encouragement and genuine care for one another were apparent throughout my visit. One of the newer staff members, who has many years of experience in childcare, shared that this is the most positive center she has ever worked at, which speaks volumes about the environment they have created.

I observed strong classroom management, with staff genuinely engaged at the children's level—kneeling beside them, joining in their play, and offering gentle guidance that showed how connected they are to the children in their care.

The center also uses Brightwheel to stay connected with families, allowing staff to share updates, photos, and daily information so parents can feel involved in their child's day no matter where they are.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with both Carlie and Dawn regarding their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

Staff shared that a recent change—keeping the same teachers consistently assigned to each room—has helped them build stronger relationships with one another and truly understand each other's strengths and frustrations. This consistency has created a more supportive and connected team environment. Carlie and Dawn are able to monitor classrooms through the cameras as well as through their daily rounds. They described how they can often hear when a situation is starting to escalate and are able to respond quickly, offering encouragement, guidance, or an extra set of hands whenever staff need support.

Please email consultant when all items that are below standards have been completed. Please have these completed by 06/30/26

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 04/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.