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

Name of Center: Sugarbabys Childcare **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51633

Street: 915 W 4th ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 915 W 4th ST, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Renita Johnson **Phone Number:** 319-429-9217

On-Site Supervisor(s): Renita Johnson **E-Mail:** sugarbabychildcare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-13-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** X **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: 10-17-2024

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit Non-Profit X 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	8	10	21	6	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-16-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/13/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Sugarbaby's Childcare in Waterloo. I met with Renita Johnson, the director and owner of the childcare program. Ms. Johnson has a BA in a non-child related field. She was a registered childcare provider out of her home for many years. There are three staff members employed by the program.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The program was given permission to open on 11/01/21. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. It serves one-year-olds through school-aged children. There are currently sixteen children enrolled.

The center is primarily operating out of two rooms but has the availability of an additional room and an open space where Ms. Johnso has set up a technology space. There is a room for children eighteen months through two-years-old, a room for three and four-year-old children, a space for four and five-year-old children and a school-age room. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The rooms are nicely decorated with several centers that are clearly labeled.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, technology, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, sensory items, puppets, woodworking, writing, math, science/discovery, magnets 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 center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans for the children. A lesson plan was available for review the day of the visit.

There is a phone in the office and emergency phone numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in the rooms being used. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

There are three bathrooms in the center with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing procedures were posted in each location. There are two diaper changing tables in the center and procedures were posted.

Mats and cots are used to nap. They are being sanitized daily.

There is a first-aid kit in the hallway.

The program has a large fenced in area in the parking lot behind the center. There is a rocking horse that has a fall height greater than 18 inches. This would require fall surfacing. There is no fall surfacing in the playground area so the horse should not be used. There are basketball hoops, riding toys, a dirt digging area, dramatic play equipment, tables and chairs and picnic tables.

The program has a downstairs area that they can use if they cannot go outside. Ms. Johnson eventually wants to turn this in to program space. There is a bathroom in this area with one toilet and one sink. Add handwashing procedures to this area. You must also post the fire and tornado evacuation diagrams downstairs if you plan to use this area.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in January 2025 and is good for two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was present upstairs and is above the stairs that go downstairs and downstairs it is in the furnace room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/17/24.

The center does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Please be aware if you have children until 10:00 pm you will have to add dinner and an evening snack.

Ms. Johnson uses a five week rotation of menus. Ms. Johnson is the cook. She prepares the hot meals at home and brings them to the center with her. She has a crockpot, air fryer, microwave and a food warmer at the center. She prepares cold items at the center. Disposable products are used. The three-step method is used for dishes. Ms. Johnson has a shelf in each room that holds the plates, cups, silverware and paper towels. There is a refrigerator in each room. You must add a thermometer to the refrigerators in the three and four-year-old room and the four and five-year-old room.

I observed the kitchen. There are two standard refrigerators in the pantry. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center is using bleach to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability poster, mandatory reporter poster and the license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

While I was present there was a child that was running out of the classroom and she sat down outside the door. I had to tell the staff member to bring the child in. Remember children can never be left alone in a space.

The center was operating out of one room during my visit because there were only four children present. The staff member was on the floor actively playing with the children. She used play to teach the children about colors. One child was so excited he said he was going to tell his mom he knows his colors. The staff member offered choices and modeled good manners. She maintained positive conversation with the children. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 10/31/26.

Ms. Johnson states despite obstacles and low enrollment she is still here and wants to make the childcare business work.

Ms. Johnson states the staff members she has are reliable.

Ms. Johnson is invested in childcare. She has a lot of centers and activities for the children so they do not become bored.

The program is a bus stop for school-aged children.

The rooms are nicely decorated and centers are clearly labeled.

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

N/A

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.

An administrative change is being made to change the hours of operation. The program will not operate from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. Please be sure to closely review the licensing standards for evening care. Pay close attention to meal requirements, sleeping arrangements and bathrooms.

*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.