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

Name of Center: Growing Bear Day Care & Preschool Inc **Enrollment:** 63 **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: 02-01-2023

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:** 02-20-2023

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

Date Inspected: 01-06-2021

Comments : Compliance on 01/26/21

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	12	20	19	30	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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:** 02-20-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 02/01/23 I made an unannounced 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 twelve 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 63 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infants (six weeks to 18 months), a room for children 18 months to two and one-half years of age, a room for children two and one-half to three and one-half years of age, a room for children three and one-half to five-years-old (preschool), and a school age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, 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.

Emergency numbers 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. Daily schedules were posted.

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 February 2021 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. Ms. Waters knows her radon testing is due because she was only able to find one kit when she went to order them. She is looking for additional tests. 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 near the sink in the preschool 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 01/06/21, with compliance on 01/26/21.

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 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. The meals were previously served family style for the children old enough to serve themselves prior to Covid 19. Currently, all children are being served their food, but they plan to start family style again in the preschool classroom.

Parents provide formula, baby food and cereal. Bottles are kept at the center and put through the dishwasher at the end of the day. However, they are washing some bottles in the room. When this occurs, you must sanitize the bottles.

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. A thermometer was not found in the preschool class and in the freezer portion in the infant room. Food is stored off the ground and most foods were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen. Cereal must be placed in a sealed container once it is open. In the infant room and the room for children eighteen months through two-and one-half years old there were crackers and cereals that 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 Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize food tables and disinfect changing tables.

Handwashing procedures and diaper changing procedures were posted in all the necessary locations.

In the infant room make sure all the over-the-counter medications (diaper creams) are labeled with the child's name. If there are over the counter medications that state a doctor must provide the dosage for children under 24 months old, then parents must provide you a doctor's note with the dosage.

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. Ms. Waters reported she is going to purchase thicker mats. 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 and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Five files did not have emergency dental contact information and three did not have emergency doctor contact information. There was one missing physical. This will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. You must update your professional development policy to reflect the changes made in October 2016. There are no longer full time and part time employees. All mandated trainings must be completed within 90 days (first-aid, CPR, universal precautions, mandatory reporter and Essentials). Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed but Ms.

Waters is in the process of updating them.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. Staff members sat on the floor with the children and held children on their laps. Staff members sang and danced with the children during circle time. They offered the children choices and encouraged them to use their imaginations. They had creative art and crafts projects for the children. Staff members were enthusiastic and talked with the children in a positive manner. They provided praise and provided each child with attention. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

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.

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

Ms. Waters states she has staff longevity with her primary staff members which provides stability to the program.

Ms. Waters states the parents are happy with the care of their children. She receives several compliments and no complaints.

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

Ms. Waters states her staff members have taken good trainings, such as PBIS.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each of the rooms for added security. There is also a camera outside near the entrance.

The program partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

The program is a bus stop for the children.

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

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
Food is stored off the ground and most foods were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen. Cereal must be placed in a sealed container once it is open. In the infant room and the room for children eighteen months through two-and one-half years old there were crackers and cereals that 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.

109.9(2) Children's Files
I reviewed ten children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Five files did not have emergency dental contact information and three did not have emergency doctor contact information.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. 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.