

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

**Name of Center:** ABC Learning Early Childhood Center      **Enrollment:** 130      **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18849

**Street:** 15 Nightengale Lane      **City:** Dubuque      Iowa      **Zip:** 52003      **County:** Dubuque

**Mailing Address:** 15 Nightengale Lane, Dubuque, IA, 52003

**Director's Name:** Melissa Donovan      **Phone Number:** 563-583-6654

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Jill Bildstein      **E-Mail:** rbirch1087@aol.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 07-19-2017

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

**Date Inspected:** 06-30-2016

**Comments :**

**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

<b>HOURS:</b>	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
<b>LICENSE CAPACITY</b>	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	52	20	41	22	135
Summer					0

**QRS Rating:**   N/A

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b>	
X	<b>FULL</b> license from 08-01-2016 to 08-01-2018
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from
	<b>DENIAL</b> of initial application
	<b>SUSPENSION</b> of license
	<b>REVOCAION</b> of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate, MSW

Date: 07-27-2017

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 7/19/16. The center owner/director, Melissa Donovan, was present for a portion of the visit as were other staff. The center's on site supervisor, Jill Bildstein, accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the licensing visit. The center, at this location has been in operation since 6/4/12. It is noted that Melissa owned a center previous to this with the same name, however, that location closed just prior to this new location opening. Melissa was able to purchase this property and completed extensive remodeling to the building to transform it into a large child care center. Melissa was previously qualified as a director with her experience and training. This is a large center using space on the main floor of the building. There is space upstairs that is just used for storage and some utilities.

Program rooms include the following: Little Learners (two years); Discovery Drive (three years); PreK Parkway (four and five years); Stepping Stone Street (older threes and fours during the school year and school age room in the mornings and on non-school days); Crayola Court (18 to 24 months); Whipper Snapper Way (nine to 18 months); and Lullaby Lane (six weeks to approximately 12 months). The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. Materials were generally accessible to the children in all program rooms. Program rooms are large, bright, and colorful. Most program rooms included adjacent restroom areas. Infant rooms included diaper stations and/or restroom areas adjacent with enough sinks to accommodate food preparation and hand washing if used appropriately. All program space was observed.

The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, and snack. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The center employs a cook and all meals and snacks are prepared on site in the center's kitchen.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The director identifies having nearly 20 years of experience in the child care field and reports that she is working on achieving her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degree in education through an online program that will allow her to achieve all of these. Melissa and her assistants have continued to work well together, and the program is quite well managed. Program rooms are large and offer plenty of space for activities. Program rooms are bright with windows and also have access to the outdoor area. The center has repainted some of the program rooms. Activity planning is done quite well at this center, and staff appeared generally engaged with the children in program activities. The program participates in the local AEA program to borrow materials to enhance/supplement programming. The center also participates in the Lion's Club program that offers eye exams for the children. The center continues at four star QRS rating. The center continues to offer "family fun nights" once per month or bi-monthly to encourage family participation at the center. Melissa states the center also organizes a parent support group meeting once monthly called "Together We Can Dubuque" which she describes as similar to a PTA. The director states the center partners with two local colleges to provide student teaching for several students. The center director states that the county library comes to the center once per week, and the Dubuque Extension also comes once per week to do classroom work with the school age children.

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

109.10(9): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are:In the center.In the outdoor play area.On field trips. Main center first aid kit needs gauze pads and whistle. Ensure latest HCCI first aid kit checklist is used for all first aid kits that are required to be full.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease. Ensure food service and food items are only set on a hard, non porous surface that has been properly cleaned and sanitized immediately prior including dishes that need to dry.

## **V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. It is noted that the center's radon testing is over the 4.0 limit in some areas. The center director has indicated the center is in the process of resolving this concern. The center will need to promptly address this concern and obtain documentation that testing is below the 4.0 limit for each program room.
2. Crib spacing was again reviewed with the staff to ensure proper spacing requirements around any crib that has a child in it.
3. Consider moving or replacing taller shelving unit in the threes room and one shelving unit in the fours/fives room as these may be unstable.
4. Ensure children who are able to walk keep their shoes on for emergency/hygiene purposes.
5. Ensure all cups and bottles are labeled in the whippersnapper way room with date and name.
6. Update consultant contact/handbook availability posting with the most recent posting.
7. Improve written emergency preparedness plan to include statement regarding immobile children (not just infants) and emergency medications. Ensure all required "event types" are included in the plan, see 109.10(15)a.

This center will remain with a full license. Please correct any items cited and address the additional concerns noted above so that corrections are obvious at the next licensing visit. No written response to this report is necessary. Thank you.

\*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.

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