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

Name of Center: Iowa's Child Early Learning Community **Enrollment:** 217 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50547

Street: 135 E Douglas Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50313 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 135 E Douglas Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50313

Director's Name: Tracey Bolin **Phone Number:** 515-282-1729

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** tbolin@iowaschildelc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-26-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-27-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-04-2024

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections be done at least every three years. The city of Des Moines typically do these inspections annually.

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 X 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	20	70	70	120	280
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-05-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 4-26-24. The director was present throughout the visit as was staff member, Blaine Bolin.

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.

Iowa's Child Early Learning Community was given permission to open on 4/29/19. This program was formerly known as Bear Basics under the previous ownership. As of 4/29/19, the center is under a new name and new ownership. The center serves children roughly six weeks in age to 12 years in age and they use the Creative Learning Curriculum and Big Day Learning Curriculum with lesson planning. The center is open year-round, Monday - Friday, 5:30am - 10:00pm and then again on Saturdays from 6:00am - 6:00pm.

This is a family owned business. The director of the center is Tracey Bolin. Tracey has over 20 years' worth of experience working in child care. There is not currently an on-site supervisor, but it is recommended based on the size and hours of operation, one be explored.

Room observations/activities: During the visit, children in the classrooms were in a variety of activities which included napping in cribs, being held by staff, washing hands, engaged in free-choice play at different learning stations set up in classrooms, having diapers changed, and doing an art project facilitated by staff. There was discussion regarding a child in the toddler room with a bracelet on, having a hanging charm that is a safety concern. The director did instruct staff to place this in the child's cubby to return home. Rooms were in ratio. Staff maintained good structure during the visit; and were observed practicing good handwashing techniques.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The center is enrolled in the CACFP program and has menus in-line with this criteria. Menus were posted. The kitchen was organized and clean. Younger children eat family-style in their rooms, and older children eat cafeteria style.

Health and safety: Medication in securely locked in an easy to access area for staff. Handwashing signs were posted. First aid kits were observed in all the rooms, one needed a label and was labeled while this visit took place. Tornado/Fire emergency plans/diagrams were posted. Drills documented completed. Radon was completed 2023, with results under 4.0, so would be due again 2028. HVAC was last professionally inspected 4/1/24. There is a Carbon Monoxide detector in the library (1st floor) and in school age room (2nd floor). The director did have to move floor washing chemicals as the center was trying to keep up with mopping for a rainy day, but this left floor cleaning water/chemicals easily accessible.

Playground: Playground safety checks are completed. The playground in enclosed by chain link. There is natural shade. There are play structures which were in good repair. A new storage building had just been added to house small play equipment. Safety surfacing is wood chips.

Transportation: The center provides some transportation to/from school while operating and maintaining at least 2 buses, and a 15-passenger van.

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporter; handbook, consultant contact (new one sent), license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking were posted. Five employee files were reviewed, four missing employee volunteer statement which the director printed out and planned to have all staff signed while the visit was occurring; there was one staff in need of first aid/CPR training as soon as possible. Eleven child files were reviewed, with only one missing an updated physical.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

A staff recognition program is in place and staff have their own, personal break room which they didn't always have in the past.

There once again has been several renovations made throughout the center which includes but is not limited to new paint, new flooring, new walls (or removed walls), updated indoor play area for school-agers.

The center has been under a new name and new management now for four years roughly.

There is secure/uniform entrance/exit at the center. The center is also using the Pro-Care system for parents to sign children into/out of the center. Kid Reports are used for daily sheets.

The center has been working regularly with CCR&R and their nurse consultant.

The center is planning on an IQ4K application for level III, submission planned for 4-20-24.

The center participates in CACFP.

There is a continued focus/theme on respect, responsibility, safe, and kind.

The center works in collaboration with AEA, mobile dentist, mobile vision and health screenings, therapists, and other outside agencies.

The center provides alternative hours of care and are one of the few centers in the Des Moines Metro that has extended hours.

The center offers staff health insurance.

The director has her NAC.

The DOT Vehicle Enforcement Agency inspects the center vehicles annually.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 4
-The director printed out new forms and would have staff sign

109.9(1)e: 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.
Number not in compliance: 1
-The director stated this staff would have training completed ASAP.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1

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.

In the Toddler room, a child was wearing a bracelet with a hanging charm which is a safety/choking hazard. The director had staff remove it and place in the child's belongs to be taken home. The visit took place on a rainy day, however the director did have to move floor cleaning chemicals so as not to be readily accessible to children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed in classrooms 2/25/23 - 2/27/23. Because radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff, radon testing can now move to being done at least every five years.

All staff will need to create I-Power profiles and this had been discussed the year prior.

It is again recommended an on-site supervisor be explored based on the center's size and hours of operation.

*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.