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

Name of Center: ABC Learning and Development Center **Enrollment:** 150 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52530

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

Mailing Address: 15 Nightengale LN, Dubuque, IA, 52003

Director's Name: Holly Richards **Phone Number:** 563-583-6654

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** hollyabclearn@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-13-2025

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: 05-15-2025

Comments :

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	52	36	83	18	189
Summer			1		1

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-03-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 06-06-2025

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 5/13/25. The owner/director is Holly Richards. Holly was not able to be present for the visit, however, her assistant Jenna Sorensen, was present as were other staff. Jenna accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the visit. Holly is a qualified as a director with education, experience, and training. This is a large center using space on both floors of the building. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool program.

Program rooms on the main floor of the building include: Little Explorer's (younger twos), Little Learners Lane (older twos), Creative Corner (younger threes), Discovery Drive (older threes), Crayola Court (17 months through 23 months), Whippersnapper Way (12 months to 17 months), Lullaby Lane (youngest infants). An additional room on this level is used as the "library" for all children to use. The room includes a good supply of books. Program rooms on the second floor of the building include: Prek Parkway (fours/fives, prek and child care), Stepping Stones (fours), Adventure Avenue (school age), and Learn and Play (not currently in use except for storage). Materials are accessible to the children in all program rooms. Program rooms are large, bright, and colorful. Most program rooms included adjacent restroom areas and sinks within the program rooms as well. Infant rooms include 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. The kitchen continues to appear clean and is organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center appears to be well managed. The staff appear to work well together. Program rooms are large and organized and offer plenty of space for activities. Program rooms are bright with windows. The center's storage area includes an abundant supply of extra materials that are highly organized including by theme/topic so that staff can routinely change out materials. Staff were once again observed to be highly engaged with the children in program activities in all program rooms. Crafts and projects continue to be posted throughout the program rooms and in the hallways. The center director states the center completes daily sheets for all children until age four. Required licensing documentation and staff and child files are highly organized.

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

STAFF FILES:
109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control. Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate

indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed did not have the mandatory child abuse reporter certification completed within the first three months of employment as required (start date 11/7/24, training completed 4/8/25).

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. 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.
1. Kitchen door observed open. Children are routinely very nearby to the kitchen area in this hallway.
2. Tables used for food service activities not cleaned and sanitized immediately prior to the meal/snack as is required as observed in the crayola court room.
3. Sunscreen accessible in lower cabinet in the crayola court room.
4. Staff purse accessible in cabinet in discovery drive room.
5. Products labeled to keep out of reach of children are accessible to children in lower cabinets and in drawers in the prek parkway room (safety latches do not always work properly).
6. Sunscreen out and accessible and first aid kit and products labeled to keep out of reach of children accessible in cabinets.

109.12(5)b: Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
1. Staff observed not following diaper procedures as they are posted in the crayola court room. Staff shall remove gloves before handling and putting on the clean diaper. Staff did not wash child's hands after the diaper change or their own hands before after the diaper change and cleaning of the diaper station and before going on to the next child. Ensure items are not stored on the diaper station. Get out just the materials needed prior to starting each diaper change (gloves needed, diaper, wipes needed, etc.).

109.15(5)c: Sanitary methods are used for dishwashing sufficient to prevent transmission of disease.
1. Infant bottles are not being properly washed and sanitized with dish washing procedures. Bottles and any other dishes shall go through the dish washing procedures in the kitchen as required.
2. Dishes are being towel dried in the little explorer's lane room.
3. Wet dishes observed set on towels in the creative corner room.
4. Clean dishes placed in basket in sink next to sink used for hand washing and other not sanitary functions in stepping stones room.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fire inspection confirmation received from the fire inspector on 6/30/25. Report can be completed.

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

The administrative change aspect of this report processes the change in the room configuration of the center since the last licensing visit.

The following are the designations for rooms on the main level of the building with the individual room capacities as follows:

Little Explorers Drive (younger twos) = 20 children
Little Learners Lane (older twos) = 16 children
Creative Corner (younger threes) = 22 children
Discovery Drive (older threes) = 25 children
Crayola Court (17-23 months) = 21 children
Whippersnapper Way (12-17 months, cribs and cots) = 15 children
Lullaby Lane (nursery, CRIBS) = 16 children

The following are the designations for rooms on the second floor of the building with the individual room capacities as follows:
Stepping Stones (fours, room 218) = 15 children
Adventure Avenue (school age, room 215) = 18 children

Prek Parkway (prek, fours/fives, room 219) = 21 children

Learn and Play Room (room 213) is not currently in use and is storage only. It's capacity is 18 children, however, it is not included in the license capacity for the center currently.

1. Emergency plan posting at the main exit door is incomplete. It is missing the center name, address, phone number and phone numbers for police, fire, and poison control. This has been noted previously.
2. Improve storage of children's water bottles so that they are maintained sanitary and separate.
3. Ensure current lesson/activity plans are posted for all rooms.
4. Improve cot spacing in some rooms, at least two feet of space between cots. Ensure sheets are put properly on the cots (sheets that fit the cots properly are recommended).
5. Ensure items are not stored or set on cots.
6. Ensure the general summary of activities is noted for each child who is not yet two years of age on their daily note.
7. Update schedule posted for prek parkway, schedule ends at 2:30pm but room is used beyond that time.

The center will continue with a full license. Please address the concerns noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. 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.