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

Name of Center: Bridge to Beginnings: A Child's Place Preschool **Enrollment:** 169 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51015

Street: 610 Maiden Lane **City:** Muscatine Iowa **Zip** 52761 **County:** Muscatine

Mailing Address: 610 Maiden Lane, Muscatine, IA, 52761

Director's Name: Mikelle Cooke **Phone Number:** 563-506-9068

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mary Wetzel **E-Mail:** bridgetobeginnings@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-23-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-19-2020

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

Date Inspected: 02-01-2023

Comments : Does Comply.

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 X 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	36	22	113	113	284
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:		
	FULL license from	
X	**PROVISIONAL** license from	02-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	DENIAL of initial application	
	SUSPENSION of license	
	REVOCATION of license	

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 02-01-2024

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

The center was placed on a provisional license on 2/1/2024.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker arrived at Bridge to Beginnings: A Child's Place for an annual visit on 1/23/24. The center provides child care for infants to school aged children. They currently have 169 children enrolled with a capacity of 284 children. The center is located inside of a commercial building. The center has nine classrooms, a cafeteria, a gym, office, kitchen, storage space and restrooms. The center had a fire inspection completed on 2/1/2023.

The director is Mikelle Cooke. Mikelle opened the center in 3/2020.

The onsite supervisor is Mary Wetzel. Mary started at the center in 12/2020.

All program space was observed on the date of my visit.

Nutritional practices were checked. The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The center provides breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack.
The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center had completed fire and tornado drills as required. The center had completed radon and HVAC inspection completed as required.

The center’s outdoor play area has green turf for surfacing. Activities outside included: climbing structures, swing, slides, riding toys, pushing toys, balls, basketball hoop, sensory tables, chalk, etc.

The center's curriculum is teacher created.

The center’s policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed. The center communicates with parents by Brightwheel.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
-The center accepts Child Care Assistance.
-The center uses Brightwheel for open communication.
-The center purchased Astroturf for their infant to 2 year old playground. This allows for the children to have access to slides, a climbing structure, and tunnel.

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

1. 109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse

or criminal history that occurs.
-Upon arrival to the center only 8/31 staff had completed Iowa SING Checks. The center had them all completed by the end of the day.
-This is a repeat citation from 6/15/22, 6/4/21, 6/30/20.
-These instructions have been sent to the center multiple times including 9/7/2023 and 1/9/2024. Record checks were not completed as required. Please review the following:
https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/BGP/62%20Record%20Check%20Guide.pdf

2. 109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-Upon my arrival to the center 31/31 staff did not have National Criminal History Checks completed. Director shared that they had been done on some staff she just couldn't find the results.
-This is a repeat citation from 6/15/22, 6/4/21, 6/30/20.
-These instructions have been sent to the center multiple times including 9/7/2023 and 1/9/2024. Record checks were not completed as required. Please review the following:
https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/BGP/62%20Record%20Check%20Guide.pdf

3. 109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-8/31 employees had evaluations that needed to be completed.
-This is a repeat citation from 6/15/22, 6/4/21, 6/30/20.
-These instructions have been sent to the center multiple times including 9/7/2023 and 1/9/2024. Record checks were not completed as required. Please review the following:
https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/BGP/62%20Record%20Check%20Guide.pdf

4. 109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
--27/31 employees did not have pre-employment physicals. 18 staff completed physicals on 1/31 or 2/2.
-This is a repeat citation from 6/12/23, 6/15/22, 6/4/21.
-The following form must be used: https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/BGP/4%20Phys%20Exam.pdf

5. 109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
-Number missing: 3
-Please review the following: https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization

6. 109.10: Center shall establish health policies, including criteria for excluding a sick child. Policies shall be consistent with the recommendations of the National Health and Safety Performance Standards.
-The center does not have an exclusion policy except for nits, fever, diarrhea and vomiting. Parents are notified via the app if there is an illness and how long they must remain out for.
-Health policies must be developed. Please review the following: https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/2819/download?inline= and https://ecels-healthychildcarepa.org/publications/manuals-pamphlets-policies/item/248-model-child-care-health-policies

7. 109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-Number not in compliance: 3
-Please review the following information: https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/2835/download?inline=

8. 109.10(5): Infectious disease control: Centers shall establish policies and procedures related to infection disease control and use of universal precautions with handling of bodily fluid. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste.
-Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste.

9. 109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center. Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity. After diapering a child. Before leaving the rest room either with a child or by themselves. Before and after administering nonemergency first aid if gloves are not worn. After handling animals or cleaning cages.
-Staff completed all of the diaper changes in her room. She switched out gloves, but never washed her hands. She then carried a gallon of milk and carton of milk to the kitchen.

10. 109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed: Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity. After using the restroom or being diapered. After handling animals.
-Children's hands were not washed for the required amount of time.

11. 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.
-The first aid kit was not sufficient. This list was emailed to the director on 9/7/2023 and 1/9/2024.

12. 109.10(10): Recording incidents: Parents shall be notified on the day of the incident involving a child that includes: Minor injuries. Minor changes in health status. Minor behavioral concerns. Incidents resulting in injury to a child. Shall be verbally notified immediately when there is: A serious injury to a child. An incident resulting in significant change in health status. An incident includes child being involved in inappropriate, sexually acting out behavior. A WRITTEN report, fully documenting every incident, shall be provided to the parent or authorized person. This should be completed by staff that witnessed the incident and retained in child file. Serious injuries and deaths must be reported to the Department within 24 hours.
-Behavioral concerns are not being reported as needed. The child that had the behavior and the hurt child both must have an incident report; but names cannot be shared.

13. 109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
-Exits were blocked with snow/ice. This must be removed.

14. 109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-Staff did not know how many children were in there care in one classroom.

15. 109.11(1): 35 square feet of usable floor space per child. Rooms with cribs have 40 square feet of space per child.
-The center has too many restrictive devices. They had 4 exersaucers, 3 swings, 2 bouncy, 2 sit up devices. This significantly impacts staff's and children ability to move around. The children are corralled to a corner of the room that does not provide sufficient square footage. The center is strongly encouraged to have only one of restrictive devices. If absolutely necessary. The best place for a child is in the arms of a caregiver or on the floor next to their caregiver. Restrictive devices are frequently required due to injuries or death.

16. 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.
-Choking hazards (including balloons) were accessible. This is a repeat citaiton from 6/12/23. -Objects should not be small enough to fit entirely into a child's mouth. According to the federal government's small parts standard on a safe-size toy for children under three years of age, a small part should be at least one and one-quarter inches in diameter and between one inch and two and one-quarter inches long; any part smaller than this has a potential choking hazard. Please review the following: https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/injuries-emergencies/Pages/Choking-Prevention.aspx and https://www.kaplanco.com/product/80072/choke-tube-tester-set-set-of-3
-Cleaning supplies were accessible. This is a repeat citation from 6/12/23.
-The ceiling was leaking in the party room. This was being looked at by maintenance while the worker was present.
-When staff in the two year old room complete diaper changes they leave the cupboard unlocked. This leaves staff purses accessible to the children. Please review the following:
https://poisoncontrol.utah.edu/sites/g/files/zrelqx281/files/media/documents/2021/PursePoster.pdf

17. 109.12(4): .Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.
-n. Cots and mats should be placed at a minimum of three feet apart. Doing so helps the caregiver attend to the needs of each child and may reduce the transmission of illness such as respiratory infections, which are transmitted by respiratory secretions or airborne particles (from sneezing, coughing, drooling, etc.)

18. 109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-Diapering procedures were not followed. Please review the following: https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.2.1.3 and https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/2848/download?inline=

19. 109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-Staff must wash hands prior to any food preparation, serving or storage is completed. This was not done.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

As a result of a recent visit to your center, a decision has been made to issue a provisional license. The center is being placed in corrective action status. The center is directed to correct the items that are cited. Iowa Code 109.2(3) b. A provisional license shall be renewable when written plans giving specific dates for completion to bring the center up to standards are submitted to and approved by the department. A provisional license shall not be reissued for more than two consecutive years when the lack of compliance with the same standards has not been corrected within two years.

1. The center will post their provisional license.
2. The center shall submit a written corrective action plan, using the template provided, to the HHS Licensing Consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. This plan should be submitted to the licensing consultant for review within 10 days of the receipt of this report. This should be done via email: hbrown@dhs.state.ia.us
3. The center director will develop working relations with their Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/ The center director will work with them to ensure they understand Iowa Code 109. The center director will also allow them to complete unannounced drop-ins.
4. The center director will develop working relationships with their Nurse Consultant: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci The center director will work with them to ensure they understand Iowa Code 109. The center director will also allow them to complete unannounced drop-ins.
5. The center director will work to correct all citations and ensure compliance with Iowa Code 109.
6. The center director and all staff will read/review Iowa Code 109: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/441.109.pdf
7. HHS may choose to ask the center to voluntarily close, suspend the center's license or revoke the center's license.
8. HHS may change the provisional license to a full license when the director contacts HHS Licensing Consultant and asks for a revisit. The center director will ensure that the citations have been corrected and they are following Iowa Code 109 prior to contacting HHS Licensing Consultant.

109.2(3) Provisional license. a. A provisional license may be issued or a previously issued license may be reduced to a provisional license for a period up to one year when the center does not sufficiently meet standards imposed by law and these rules. b. A provisional license shall be renewable when written plans giving specific dates for completion to bring the center up to standards are submitted to and approved by the department. A provisional license shall not be reissued for more than two consecutive years when the lack of compliance with the same standards has not been corrected within two years. c. When the center submits documentation or it can otherwise be verified that the center complies with standards imposed by law or these rules, the license shall be upgraded to a full license.

109.2(4) Denial. Initial applications or renewals shall be denied when: a. The center does not comply with center licensing laws and these rules in order to qualify for a full or provisional license. b. The center is operating in a manner which the department determines impairs the safety, health, or well-being of children in care. c. A person subject to an evaluation has transgressions that merit prohibition of involvement with child care and of licensure, as determined by the department. d. Information provided either orally or in writing to the department or contained in the center's files is shown to have been falsified by the provider or with the provider's knowledge. e. The center is not able to obtain an approved fire marshal's certificate as prescribed by the state fire marshal or fails to comply in correcting or repairing any deficiencies in the time determined by the fire marshal or the fire marshal determines the facility is not safe for occupancy. f. The regulatory fee as specified in subrule 109.2(7) is not received by the department's division of fiscal management within 60 calendar days from the due date on the invoice.

109.2(5) Revocation and suspension. A license shall be revoked or suspended if corrective action has not been taken when: a. The center does not comply with center licensing laws or these rules. b. The center is operating in a manner which the department determines impairs the safety, health, or well-being of the children in care. c. A person subject to an evaluation has transgressions that merit prohibition of involvement with child care and of licensure, as determined by the department. d. Information provided to the department or contained in the center's files is shown to have been falsified by the provider or with the provider's knowledge. e. The facility is not able to obtain an approved fire marshal's certificate as prescribed by the state fire marshal or fails to comply in correcting or repairing any deficiencies in the time determined by the fire marshal or the fire marshal determines the facility is not safe for occupancy. f. The regulatory fee as specified in subrule 109.2(7) is not paid in full due to insufficient funds to cover a check submitted to the department for the fee.

109.2(6) Adverse actions. a. Notice of adverse actions for a denial, revocation, or suspension and the right to appeal the licensing decision shall be given to applicants and licensees in accordance with 441—Chapter 7 and rule 441—16.3(17A).

b. An applicant or licensee affected by an adverse action may request a hearing by means of a written request directed to the Department of Human Services, Appeals Section, 1305 E. Walnut Street, Fifth Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. The request shall be submitted within 30 days after the date the department mailed the official notice containing the nature of the denial, revocation, or suspension. c. A letter received by an owner or director of a licensed center initiating action to deny, suspend, or revoke the facility's license shall be conspicuously posted at the main entrance to the facility where it can be read by parents or any member of the public. The letter shall remain posted until resolution of the action to deny, suspend or revoke the license. If the action to deny, suspend, or revoke is upheld, the center shall return the license to the department. d. If the center's license is denied, suspended or revoked, the administrator of the department shall notify the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of each child for whom the facility provides child care. The center shall cooperate with the department in providing the names and address of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of each child for whom the facility provides child care.

*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.