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

Name of Center: Above and Beyond **Enrollment:** 53 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52395

Street: 6151 Thornton Ave, Ste 500 **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50321 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Mark Schelle **Phone Number:** 515-414-0684

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mindy Garcia and Nichole Greene **E-Mail:** aboveandbeyonddsm@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-15-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-15-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-21-2023

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal

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	29	17	47	8	101
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 12-15-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The center is moving into a newly renovated building on or around January 2, 2024. This consultant did a walk through of the center and classrooms on 12/15/23. A licensing visit will occur sometime in or around 3/2024. The center will remain on the same licensing cycle as they were at their previous location.

For the new building, the infant classroom has a capacity of 11 children. The one year old classroom has a capacity of 18 children. The two year old classroom has a capacity of 17 children. The three year old classroom has a capacity of 19 children. One four year old classroom has a capacity of 10 children. Another four/five year old classroom has a capacity of 18 children. The family room/school-age classroom has a capacity of eight children.

Below is a summary from the visit in 3/2023 at the previous location:
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A licensing visit was conducted on 3/20/23. The owner/director was present throughout the visit the two on-site supervisors for portions of the visit.

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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Leaps and Bounds Children's Academy is a child care center located in Des Moines, IA serving children ages six weeks in age to 12 years in age (although school-age children primarily attend only during the summer months as well as school breaks during the school year). The center opened for business in 3/2011. There are five classrooms. The center is connected to the CDS building. The center utilizes their own learning curriculum to use with children that is based off of other learning curriculums.

The owner/director of the center is Mark Schelle. Mark has his BA degree in business and has worked in child care for many years. There are two on-site supervisors. Mindy Garcia has worked in child care for a number of years and meets the qualifications for her position. Mindy also spends a great deal of time in the classroom setting. Nichole Greene is the other on-site supervisor. Nichole has several years' worth of experience working in child care. Nichole also tracks the majority of staff and children files as well as inspection forms.

During the visit, children were observed in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up within specific classrooms. In the infant room, staff was sitting on the floor with children and interacting with them. In the other classrooms, the theme of the week per the lesson plan was bugs/insects. Children were observed in a variety of activities around this theme. Staff were facilitating painting activities and excavation activities all about bugs.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

From the last visit in 3/2023:

Each classroom has a first-aid kit. There are also extra first-aid supplies.

The center employs one full-time cook.

There is family room set up for parents who may want to visit their child during the center's hours of operation outside of the classroom. Staff also utilize this room for completing online trainings. There is also a staff lounge.

There is a cleaning crew within the building complex that clean the center outside of center hours. This is in addition to the staff and their cleaning responsibilities.

The owner again stated he had a good group of core staff and they all work well with each other and take pride in their work/classrooms. There are several tenured staff at this center.

The owner stated the center also has a good working relationship with the other businesses on the grounds. Finally, the owner felt he and his staff have a really good relationship
with families they serve.

There are good community partnership with other businesses.

Staff have stated they liked how ownership treated them fair, but had high expectations for them and checks in on them to see how they are doing, but also to get to know them.

There is a family environment-type feel working at the center. Staff have an option of a weekly work schedule.

The owner/director has his NAC certification.

Staff photos are posted in the main hallway.

A sound system plays children's music in the mornings upon arrival and throughout the day at different times.

Quarterly staff meetings are held.

Several staff are involved in the TEACH and WAGES programs. All lead teachers have degrees (seven total).

The center is a QRS Level 3 and working on the transition to IQ4K.

The on-site supervisors are both members of the STEM advisory council within the metro

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

From the visit in 3/2023:

109.12(4): .Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles. Children's bedding shouldn't be touching other children's bedding while being stored. This was an issue in the four/five year old classroom. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.15(4)a: Written policies developed for food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school and is provided to parent at admission. Food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school is monitored and supplemented if necessary to ensure CACFP guidelines maintained.
Oat milk is not considered a credible substitute for one percent, skim, or whole cows milk. A food allergy action plan needs to be completed by the parent for oat milk to be able to be served. The only credible substitute for the cows milk mentioned above is soy milk.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center will be moving into a newly renovated building on January 2, 2024. An addendum was completed from their last report as they have changed addresses and are under a new name. They were formerly known as Leaps and Bounds Children's Academy.

Radon was completed in the new building already. All classroom came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The HVACC units were inspected already.

The center does not go on field trips. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations for the children.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.