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

Name of Center: Stepping Stones Child Care Center Inc **Enrollment:** 115 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26087

Street: 701 S 3rd Ave **City:** Winterset Iowa **Zip** 50273 **County:** Madison

Mailing Address: 701 S 3rd Ave, Winterset, IA, 50273

Director's Name: Angie Kirk **Phone Number:** 515-462-5831

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cortni Kirk, Ambre Benge, Terri Finnell, Donna Christiansen **E-Mail:** dacmab242003@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-10-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-27-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-29-2021

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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	15	24	44	60	143
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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:** 03-13-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 3/10/23. The owner/director was present throughout this 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.

Stepping Stones Child Care Center is located in Winterset, IA. The owner/director is Angie Kirk. Angie has been the owner and director of the center since 1999. Cortni Kirk is one on-site supervisor. Cortni has an AA degree in Liberal Arts and has worked at this center off and on for several years. Ambre Benge is another on-site supervisor as of 2/7/17. Ambre has worked at the center since 2009. Terri Finnell is the third on-site supervisor. Terri has a BA degree and has worked at this center since 2013. Donna Christiansen is the most recent on-site supervisor as of 4/17/18. Donna has worked at Stepping Stones for many years.

The center serves children two weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age using a combination of the Creative Learning Curriculum, Al's Pals Curriculum, and Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum. There are five classrooms. The infant room has a capacity of 12 children. The toddler classroom has a capacity of 13 children, but the center caps the room at 12 children. The two/three year old classroom has a capacity of 11 children. The Pre-K classroom has a capacity of 47 children. The school-age classroom has a capacity of 60 children.

During the visit, children were observed being held, being bottle fed, a diaper change was being completed, doing art work with finger paint, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, and doing a large motor group dancing activity facilitated by staff.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owner/director has her National Administrator Credential.

The is a QRS Level 4. QRS is a voluntary program based on best practice. The center has started the IQ4K process which is replacing QRS.

The center participates in the food program (CACFP).

The center has a good mix of tenured (some over 10 years) and new staff. Monthly staff meetings are held. There is an element of the center having a family environment yet management having clear expectations for the center.

Staff files were again nicely organized. Staff are encouraged to get more than the minimum required amount of professional development training hours required.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

The center participates in the 5-2-1-0 program as it relates to a healthy lifestyle.

Seven staff members have completed their CDA's and/or AA degrees.

The center is uses the online application Brightwheels to even better communicate with parents.

Enrollment has again increased over the past year.

The center has again done some renovations within the center over the past year which includes a new playground structure.

Staff bios and credentials are posted near the main entrance.

A security camera system is in place.

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

237A.7: Information regarding a child in a child care center or their relative is confidential. If this information is released by visual, verbal or written means, written consent from the parent or guardian is in the file or a court order allowing the release of the information.
One medication form should have a cover sheet over the form.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.
All children's bottles should be labeled clearly. One bottle wasn't labeled and several others were not clearly labeled.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 7/13/21 - 10/18/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Radon can now be done every five years if levels are below 4.0.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed on 1/25/23.

For transportation/field trips, the center has two vans and a bus.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

It is recommended parents list at least one emergency contact for their children other than themselves.

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.