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

Name of Center: Berry Tender Child Care **Enrollment:** 74 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22967

Street: 401 Commercial ST **City:** Strawberry Point Iowa **Zip** 52076 **County:** Clayton

Mailing Address: PO Box 471, Strawberry Point, IA, 52076

Director's Name: Jessica Haynes **Phone Number:** 563-933-2514

On-Site Supervisor(s): Melany Kelley **E-Mail:** berrytenderchildcare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-06-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-08-2024

Comments : Compliance on 10/29/24

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X 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	21	20	14	70
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-06-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/06/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Berry Tender Child Care in Strawberry Point. I met with Jessica Haynes, the director. Ms. Haynes has been with the center since August 2003 and the director since October 2015. Ms. Haynes has a one-year diploma in child development. Melany Kelley is the on-site supervisor for the program. She has been with the center since September 2004. There are 20 staff members employed by the center. Pictures of the staff members are in the entrance hallway with information about each one of them.

The childcare center is in the Strawberry Point Civic Center and it is attached to the local library. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:15 am until 6:30 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently of 74 children enrolled in the center.

The program operates out of the following rooms: Duckling (infants), Bear (two and young three-year-old children), Tiger (three, four and school-age children), and Lion (school-aged children during the summer). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet and colors. The children's birthdays were posted.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, playdough, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

Cots are used to nap.

The classrooms use a variety of resources to create lesson plans. Activities are based around weekly themes and each teacher makes their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review in each room. The center shares the same theme.

The center is using the Lillio app, formally known as HiMama, for daily sheets in the infant room. All classrooms are using the app to complete their lesson plans and communicate with parents.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in the office and the Tiger room. Emergency numbers are in the binders with the children's emergency information in each room. Two-way radios are available in each room so that staff members can communicate with one another. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program rooms and gym. Daily schedules were posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program

installed a new fuel burning HVAC system in 2023. An annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in each program room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/08/24, with compliance on 10/29/24.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The center makes the meals on site and use a four-week rotation of menus. Ms. Kelley is the cook. The kitchen is in a sectioned off area of the Tiger room. The kitchen is separated from the classroom using countertops and cupboards. The children do not have access to the kitchen. Children eat in their rooms. Family style is not used. Menus were available for review. Dishes are washed using the three-step method, but the center has purchased a new industrial dishwasher. They are waiting for it to be hooked up. The refrigerator and chest freezer had thermometers. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room, the center provides a specific brand of formula. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. The parents provide their children baby food and the center provides cereal. Bottles are washed in the room using the three-step method.

There is a refrigerator in the Duck and Bear rooms and thermometers were present. There is a refrigerator in the Lion room, but it is unplugged due to the room mostly being used in the summer.

The center uses Purell Professional Surface Sanitizer/Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed diaper changes in the Duck, Bear and Tiger room. Proper procedures are followed.

There are sinks in each of the classrooms and handwashing procedures were posted. There are diaper changing tables in the Duck, Bear and Tiger rooms. Diaper changing procedures were posted in the Duck and Bear rooms. They must be posted near the changing table in the Tiger room. There is a bathroom connected to the Lion room. This has three toilets and one sink. Procedures were posted. There are two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each off the Bear and Tiger rooms. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance and in the center hallway. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license is in the office. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has two fenced in playground areas. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing in each area. There is climbing equipment on each side with activities like slides. There is a grassy space in each area. Trees are used for shade. There are picnic tables and a bench to rest on. Both sides are for children ages two through twelve-years-old.

Staff members were amazing. They were actively engaged in activities with the children. In every room they sat on the floor to play with children and introduce them to activities. They used play to talk with the children about colors and animals. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They held children on their laps and were nurturing. They read to the children. They offered the children choices and were flexible with their schedules. In the Tiger room they use behavior charts and reward the children with stickers. In the Bear room the new lead teacher has added several centers and changes them out so the children do not get bored. In the Duck room the lead teacher sets developmental milestones for each child and documents as they are achieved. Staff members have good teamwork and Ms. Haynes and Ms. Kelley check on rooms frequently. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Haynes states the center has new flooring, new cupboards and counter tops and new windows in each room. They paid for these items through grants. The new items really make the rooms brighter.

Ms. Haynes states that she and Ms. Kelley and the lead infant room teacher, Jessie Leonard, have longevity with the program. They know licensing standards and know expectations for the center. This also provides stability to the program and for parents.

Ms. Haynes states the center has a good board. They are supportive and involved.

The program has a locked door for security at the entrance of the hallway to the childcare center. Cameras are in each room and they can record.

There are pictures with information about each staff member in the entrance.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.