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

Name of Center: Building Blocks Childcare & Preschool **Enrollment:** 136 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30098

Street: 108 Gaul DR **City:** Sergeant Bluff Iowa **Zip** 51054 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 108 Gaul DR, Sergeant Bluff, IA, 51054

Director's Name: Stacy Eldridge/owner **Phone Number:** 712-943-2223

On-Site Supervisor(s): Leslie Barnett & Jenah McIntyre **E-Mail:** Stacy.e.eldridge@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-22-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 10-01-2021

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	30	22	114	30	196
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 08-25-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An visit was made on 08-22-23 and met with new onsite supervisors Leslie Barnett and Jenah McIntyre as co-director Whitney Haberer had resigned. Stacy Eldridge owner and director was also present for part of the visit. Stacy oversees all 5 centers they own. Stacy has a 4 year elementary education degree and 23 years of experience working in childcare.

Building Blocks Childcare & Preschool is located in a building that was built specifically for childcare. Leslie Barnett became the new onsite supervisor for this site in February 2023 and Jenah McIntyre. There are 13 rooms, a large eating area and a large kitchen where all the meals are prepared. Visitors need a pass code or must be let in by staff to get into the building. The center serves children infants to school age of 10; they operate Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6pm.

There are 136 children enrolled in the program, however there were 109children present at the time of the visit. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

The center has the following areas throughout the rooms for the children to explore and learn: Dress up, kitchen, legos, toys, blocks, stuffed animals, art and books. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the rooms were the colors, numbers, star of the week, shapes and the alphabet. Children have access to bathroom and sink. Observed staff assisting the children during various activities, on the floor playing with the children, sitting with the children during lunch, reading stories to the children, assisting with activities and conversing with the children throughout the day. Staff had good interaction with the children throughout the day. In one of the rooms staff had their purse out to where children had access to and when brought to their attention staff did put it away. Purses need to be out of reach for children for safety. Also, cots need to be covered for children to lay on.

Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly. The center completes monthly playground inspections. In the toddler playground the asphalt has a broken area and needs repair. Radon testing needs to be completed as it was outdated. Furnace inspection was completed.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The kitchen is not accessible to the children. Meals and snacks are prepared in a large, well equipped kitchen. Menus were posted. The center participates in CACFP program.

The center transports children's to school and field trips. Maintenance on vans/bus were provided.

Goals of the center is increase enrollment and for the new onsite supervisors to learn the center.

Strengths of the program is that staff work well as a team and willing to help each other. Good relationship with families and the community that they serve. Staff know they have management support. Management does quarterly staff meetings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center participates in the Quality Rating System and they are a level 4 out of 5.

Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program. Center also emails to parents weekly themes and menus as well as uses text reminders app.

Center feels that families are comfortable with staff and have good communications with their families. Staff work good together and have staff that have been with the center for more than 2 years.

Center sends home report cards to parents for children age 2-5 years old to let them know how they are doing developmentally.

The center continues to participate in the Nap Sac program - it focuses on nutrition, physical fitness and they have equipment in the outdoor area. The center is also participating in a child care wages project program though the TEACH Program - staff (teachers) can receive money depending on their degree and longevity at the center.

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

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.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 4
Information lacking: information was missing

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: 2

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.
Toddler playground has asphalt area that needs repair, reminder that purses needs to be out of reach of children, and cots need to be covered for children to sleep on.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant by 09-24-23 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been completed.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.