

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

Name of Center: Great Beginnings Preschool **Enrollment:** 24 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 21172

Street: 517 Second St **City:** Columbus Junction Iowa **Zip:** 52738 **County:** Louisa

Mailing Address: 517 Second St, Columbus Junction, IA, 52738

Director's Name: Elizabeth Hills **Phone Number:** 319-728-2669

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** bhills@iowatelecom.net

Date(s) of Visit: 01-10-2017

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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:** 11-01-2015

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

Date Inspected: 11-13-2014

Comments : Does Comply.

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			40		40
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 01-01-2016 to 01-01-2018
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

Date: 01-17-2017

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Based on square footage and restroom/sink availability the center's capacity was increased from 30 children to 40 children.

I arrived at the center on 1/10/17 for an unannounced off year visit. I met with the director, Elizabeth Hills. The center director has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood and Reading Endorsement. She started working at the preschool in 2008. The center is located inside of a church.

This preschool utilizes two classrooms for activity. The center had 21 children to 5 teachers. The children utilized the restroom and washed their hands. They then broke into small groups. They were able to chose from: truck and bee alphabet, gingerbread color puzzles, memory game, or calendar and "what letter does the picture start with. Children and staff did some singing and dancing prior to washing their hands for snack. The children had juice and cupcakes for a birthday.

The center had an age appropriate curriculum posted. Lesson plans were appropriate which included: active and quiet times, large-group activities, small group activities and time to play alone or with others, indoor and outdoor playtimes, and time for children to select their own activities and teacher directed activities. A wide variety of toys, educational games, puzzles, and books were available to the children to utilize. They were all in good condition. The environment was clean and well maintained. Classrooms were decorated with educational materials that were age appropriate.

Nutrition Practices:

The center chooses to participate in the CACFP Program. Food preparation and storage procedures were consistent with NHSPS. The centers had thermometers in all refrigerators and freezers. Parents are expected to provide snack on a rotating basis. The center does have snacks on hand in case a parent was to forget. Each child was served a nutritionally balanced meal and snack as defined by CACFP guidelines.

Health and Safety:

Medications are stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. Medications are inaccessible to public and the center is able to provide documentation of medication given. Staff and children were observed hand washing and they followed recommendations from the IDPH for appropriate hand washing. All first aid supplies recommended by the IDPH were available in the centers first aid kits. Fire Drills were practiced and documented once a month as required. Radon and heating annual testing had been completed. The center did have carbon monoxide detectors as required. Sanitary procedures were in place for diapering/assisting with toilet training.

Playground:

The center playground includes a climbing structure, slides, basketball hoop, sensory tables and riding vehicles. Surfacing is provided by rubber mulch. Shade is provided by the building.

Field Trips and Transportation:

The center chooses to offer field trips within walking distance. They go to local businesses, the school for farm day, the water tower and the park. The school district provides two mini vans for the preschool to offer transportation to and from school.

Administrative Records:

The following posting were available on the date of my visit: Mandatory Reporter, Handbook Availability, Consultant Contact, License, Emergency Procedures for fire and tornado, and no smoking signs. Reviewed 5/24 children and 2/6 staff files. Policies and procedures were not reviewed as it was an off year visit.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center director has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood and Reading Endorsement. She started working at the preschool in 2008.

The center has staff that is fluent in English and Spanish to meet the needs of the community.

The center has increased their capacity to serve more children.

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

109.11(3)a Center shall ensure that: (1) Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.

- The center had furniture over 30 inches that was not secured. For information on securing furniture/televisions visit: <http://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Tipover-Information-Center/>
- Kitchen knives were accessible to the children. These must be moved to a location inaccessible to the children.
- Mr. Clean Erasers and Expo Cleaner must be stored inaccessible to the children.

109.10(15)b Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

- A tornado drill was not documented in 3/2016.

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.

- One employee did not have a pre-employment physical.

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.

- One child did not have sufficient information to secure emergency dental care.

109.9(3) Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.

- 3/5 immunization certificates were on Master Index Forms. These are not approved. Information on immunizations can be found at the following website: <http://idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/laws>

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, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

- One physical was expired. Children's physicals must be updated annually.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, 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 me (563-263-9302 or hbrown@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

I encourage you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website to find out who your consultant is: <http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants>

I encourage you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website to find out who your consultant is: http://www.iowaccrr.org/who_we_are/region_5/

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