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

Name of Center: As We Grow Childcare and Preschool **Enrollment:** 110 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49802

Street: 10015 NW 61st AVE **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 10015 NW 61st AVE, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Amanda Fowles **Phone Number:** 515-414-6458

On-Site Supervisor(s): Angela Houghman **E-Mail:** director@aswegrow-childcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-18-2025

Licensing Visit X **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:** 05-14-2024

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

Date Inspected: 07-03-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Shawn Benberg--Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Dept

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	28	25	42	17	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-20-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 6/18/25. The director/owner and assistant director were present during the visit.

As We Grow Childcare and Preschool has been operating since 2018 in Johnston, IA. They provide traditional child care for children age 6 weeks to age 12, 6:45 AM to 5:50 PM Monday through Friday year round. The building is solely occupied by the daycare as the building was designed for this function. The owner and Director is Amanda Fowles. Amanda has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Amanda has prior experience as a preschool teacher and owned her own in-home registered daycare for 13 years. Amanda meets qualifications to be Director. Angela Houghman is the Assistant Director and has worked at this center since 2020. She meets the criteria to for this position.

Room Observation/Activities: The center uses their own curriculum based on the Creative Curriculum. The classrooms use themes and there are weekly lesson plans based on weekly themes which are posted in the rooms and on the application (Bright Wheel) for parents. Children were eating during the visit and some were getting ready for a rest period . The children were content. Staff were in ratio and were nurturing with the children while maintaining good structure in the classrooms. The classrooms were clean and organized; offering a variety of toys and play centers. Classroom teachers worked together well; and were very responsive and engaged with the children. There was very good handwashing technique being utilized.

Nutritional Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated cook. Menus are crafted by the director, in a four week seasonal rotation that appear in line with CACFP guidelines. The kitchen and food storage were very organized and clean. Menus were posted. Meals and snack are served family-style in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: Medication is kept secure with rescue or emergency medicine kept in the classroom (secure). There were first aid kits in the rooms. Tornado and Fire emergency exit plans were posted in the rooms and emergency drills were documented to have been completed as required. Radon testing was completed 6/2/25 with all test values under the 4.0 safety threshold. HVAC is maintained/inspected professionally; and the bill had not yet been provided to the center for this year's check, the prior year was dated 6/12/24. There are two carbon monoxide detectors at the center. The center has an emergency preparedness plan in place if needed.

Playground: The playground offers play equipment; shade structures and safety surfacing of wood chips. The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing. The equipment and playground was observed in good repair. This year the director was disappointed as due to weather, water use had been limited by the city however other outside activities were substituted until this water restriction is lifted.

Transportation:
This center does not provide transportation. The center does offer cooperation with the local school buses for before/after school.

Administrative Review: The center was observed to have mandatory reporter, center handbook, license, consultant contact, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking posted in conspicuous areas. Six staff files were reviewed; with 2 employee physicals completed after hire (per licensing regulations physicals should be completed within 6 months PRIOR to hire); one staff was needing to update mandatory reporter training and 2 staff were needing to update/complete annual required training hours. Six child files were reviewed and contained all the required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has been set up with good centers and good flow through the building.

The center has a Facebook page as well as a website.

The center has a secure entrance that is located adjacent to the director's office that incorporates additional monitoring.

The center has cameras in the classrooms.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Number not in compliance: 3
*three staff files were missing completion certificates required after completing annual training.

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
*two staff files indicated physicals having been completed after hire; licensing regulations prescribe a pre-employment physical be completed within six months PRIOR to hire and then every three years thereafter.

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1
*There was one staff file reviewed indicating the staff needed to repeat Mandatory Reporter training.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 6/2/25 with all values under the required 4.0 safety level.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Children were observed to be engaged in activities and content. Staff were consistently observed to be nurturing with the children and still maintaining good structure in the classrooms. On the day of the visit; staff were observed to work well as a team in the classrooms.

*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.