Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Creative Beginnings Preschool

Provider No.: 53034

Address: 7009 Nordic Dr, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Allison Meinert

On-Site Supervisor: Allison Meinert

Phone Number: 3194908980

E-Mail: creativebeginningsps@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/24/2026

Licensing Period: 01/05/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/15/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	54	30	84
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 03/24/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Creative Beginnings Preschool in Cedar Falls. I met with Allison Meinert, the director. Ms. Meinert has a BA in elementary education and in dance education with a dance minor. Ms. Meinert was employed as an elementary teacher for ten years. The program employs five staff members. Ms. Meinert is currently the primary teacher in the classroom during the preschool hours.

Creative Beginnings Preschool was given permission to open on 01/05/26 but did not actually start until 02/17/26. The program operates out of Ms. Meinert's in a building with other businesses. The childcare program operates from 7:30 am until 5:00 pm. The core preschool hours are 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. The program offers full time wrap around care Monday through Friday or parents can choose part time wrap around care on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. Parents also have options for preschool. They can attend five days a week (M-F), three days a week (MWF) or two days a week (T TH). The program serves children who are three years old through school-age. There are currently five children enrolled.

The program is also offering summer camps. The summer camps will offer a full-day camp-style summer experience with art, music and movement.

The program is primarily operating out of one classroom right now, but there are three rooms that will be licensed. There is a second classroom that is currently not used because of low enrollment and there is an additional room that the children are using for gross motor activities. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide some natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors, maps, and numbers. There is an area for circle time.

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The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, math, science, social studies, woodworking, sensory items, magnets, puppets, Barbie house, 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 are easily accessible to the children.

There are two bathrooms across the hall from the classroom. The boys' bathroom has six toilets, six urinals and five sinks. The girls' bathroom has six toilets and five sinks. You must post handwashing procedures in both locations. There are additional bathrooms in the building.

There are three sinks in the current classroom and handwashing procedures were posted. In the second classroom there are two sinks available.

Parents provide mats and bedding for the children for nap.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop their lesson plans. They have a well-balanced curriculum that is Arts-Integrated, a balance of literacy, early science/social studies, fine/gross motor and social and emotional learning. Their curriculum uses hands-on activities, is play-based and adapted for each child's developmental level. A lesson plan was available for review.

There is not a phone in the classroom. Staff members will use their cell phones. Post emergency numbers in the classroom that include the poison control number, the center's address and the center's phone number. The emergency evacuation diagram was posted near the program door in the classroom. Post the evacuation diagram near the door in the gross motor room. A daily schedule was posted.

I discussed fire and tornado drills with Ms. Meinert. They started on 02/17/26 and have not had any drills yet. I explained to Ms. Meinert that a fire drill and a tornado drill must occur each month and they should be practiced on separate days. The program is using a fenced-in grassy area for a playground so playground inspections are not necessary. Ms. Meinert is aware that monthly playground inspections must occur if they add any play equipment.

The radon test was completed in March 2024 and is good for five years because the program does not have a radon mitigation system. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/15/25.

The program is not on the Child and Adult care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. The program has lunch and a morning and afternoon snack on their schedule. Parents provide all food items for their children. Food items are monitored by staff members and the program is prepared to supplement if lunch and snacks do not meet the CACFP guidelines. The program has a policy that parents will be charged a five dollar fee for each missing category. No dishwashing is necessary because everything is brought from home.

There is a small refrigerator in the room that is currently not being used. If you use this refrigerator, you must add a thermometer.

The program is using Purell Food Service Surface Sanitizer to sanitize food tables. You must clean tables prior to using the sanitizer both before and after you eat.

There is a parent board located outside of the classroom and inside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The Permission to Open Without a License letter was posted.

The program has a fenced-in grassy area for the children to play outside. There is no play equipment.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed three children's files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. The program does not have a form that allows them to secure emergency care in case of an accident or illness. You must have this. There was one invalid immunization certificate

because it was not on the mandated Department of Health and Human Services certificate. Ms. Meinert was going to contact Cindy Wolf, the childcare nurse consultant, to correct this.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. Most of the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. The program did not have an Access Policy nor a universal precautions written policy. Samples of both were provided to Ms. Meinert. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed. You must add an "intoxicated parent" policy to your plan.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Meinert was the primary caretaker during my visit. Brittany Reiter was also present and cared for the children during lunch and nap. The children were eating snack when I arrived. They then moved to the gross motor room when Ms. Meinert had the children help her set up six different activity stations. The children rotated through the activities that included a hula hoop, jumping over a cone, throwing up a scarf and catching it, stepping stones, a balance beam and a balancing a bean bag. The children then went outside. When they returned, they worked on a shamrock art project. Ms. Meinert is a terrific teacher. Ms. Meinert used play as a method of teaching. She had pieces of paper that had numbers on them and there were dots for the children to count to identify the number. She talks to the children in a calming voice. She provided the children with praise and encouraged them to try things. She offered the choices and was flexible in allowing the children to do their art project like they wanted. Ms. Meinert spoke with the children about taking turns and used positive redirection. She was patient and used repetition to teach. She had a new student in the class and she was patient when teaching him classroom routines and expectations. She made learning fun. She bent down to interact with the children at their level.

The program had a terrific first visit.

Ms. Meinert states she believes the emphasis they place on fine arts is a strength.

Ms. Meinert states the program balances academics, structure, freedom and creativity.

Ms. Meinert states the staff members are amazing. They genuinely like to be at the program and they make sure the children move, dance, and have fun.

Ms. Meinert states she loves the building the program is located in.

Ms. Meinert is very organized. This was obvious with staff and children's files, in the classroom, and in her lesson plan.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: 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.
The program does not have a form that allows them to secure emergency care in case of an accident or illness. You must have this.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

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Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Meinert, the director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Meinert states they are a new program and have not encountered any problems. She mostly does one on one training with staff members as they are hired. She teaches them by modeling her expectations in the classroom. She used the, "I do, we do, you do" method of orientation. First staff members watch what she does in the classroom, then they do it together and lastly the staff member does it while Ms. Meinert observes. She states she shows staff members how to balance fun and safety. She provides the staff members with feedback in real time while she observes them in the classroom.

Ms. Meinert states she monitors staff members by staying engaged with them, by observing them in the classroom and sometimes by just listening in the hallway when they do not know she is there. She states it is important for her to look at the entire context of the situation when working with specific situations.

Date: 03/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.