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

Name of Center: As We Grow Childcare and Preschool **Enrollment:** 107 **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): Jessica Scavo **E-Mail:** director@aswegrow-childcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-14-2023

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:** 06-15-2022

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

Date Inspected: 07-09-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-08-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year annual unannounced visited was conducted on 6/14/23. The director and on-site supervisor were present throughout 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 On-Site supervisor, in this position beginning May, 2022 and has worked at this center since 2020. She meets the criteria to be On-Site Supervisor.

The center has 8 enclosed classrooms all of which were observed for this visit.

Observation of Rooms:
Nursery: this room had children ages 6 mo to 12 mo old. Ratio was met. The room was observed to be organized and free from obvious hazards. The children in this room were in the middle of a feeding/diaper change cycle and transitioning to napping. Staff were observed changing diapers and feeding the children, actively interacting. The room had age/developmentally a18-24ppropriate toys.

Room for one-year old children. The children were observed to be in the process diaper changing/transition. The cribs were clean, labeled individually, with tight/clean sheets on them. There is a diaper changing table in the room that was observed to have a mat/cushion where the liner was compromised and the Direction indicated she would be replacing. Staff were observed using recommended clean, sanitizing, and disinfecting processes. The children were observed to freely interact with staff and staff were responsive to the children.

18-24 months-were outside playing. The room had a variety of age/developmentally diverse activities/toys in the room. There were not obvious safety or health hazards. This room was in ratio.

Two year old room: The children were involved in a group activity with staff. The room was organized well, to maximize the space and staff ability to provide good supervision. There was a variety of activity centers that were in clean and age/developmentally appropriate. The lesson plans were noted to be with good detail.

3 and 4 year old room: The room was in ratio. The children and staff were engaged in a group activity. The children were observed to freely interact with staff who were responsive/interactive. The room was clean and was nicely arranged to afford staff the ability to provide effect supervision.

Pre-K room: The children were between ages 4 and 5 year old. The room was in ration. The group was involve in a staff-

lead book reaching activity. The children appeared actively engaged in the activity and responding to good structure in the room. There were age/developmentally appropriate centers for the children.

The center uses their own curriculum based on the Creative Curriculum. The classrooms use themes and there are weekly lesson plans that are posted in the rooms and on the application (Bright Wheel) for parents.

Nutrition:
This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated cook, who was present when this visit occurred. The center provides lunch and snacks that are in line with CACFP guidelines and appeared compliant with CACFP guidelines on this day. There is proper refrigeration and storage that were both clean and nicely organized with food that was up to date. The center is on a 4-week menu rotation. This menu is posted in the classrooms, by the kitchen and on the application for parents. The meals are put together in the kitchen and the children eat in their classrooms. Staff ensure that each child has proper time/space for meals.

Health and Safety:
The center had conspicuously posted hand washing posters. The center has 1st Aid kits; and proper procedures for medication storage and management. The center consistently posts emergency plans in the classroom/around the building and completes drills. This center completed radon testing 5/2023 on four rooms. Testing results were under recommendations. It is encouraged that all classrooms be monitored/tested for radon. The furnace and fuel burning appliances were inspected in June 2023 and required yearly.

This center and building were observed to be clean and well-organized, containing the necessary items for the children and their health/safety. There were a plethora of post boards utilizing pin/tacks--the use of these are discouraged and replaced with other forms of tape or staples etc.

Playground:
This center as a spacious outdoor playground with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate equipment and activities. The surfacing is wood-chips and the center director indicated more surfacing would be added and maintained when use of the playground compromises the even surface. The playground is secured with fencing that was in good repair.

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

Administrative records:
The center was observed to have mandatory reporter, center handbook, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking posted in conspicuous areas. There were Ten child files reviewed and were in compliance. There were 10+staff files reviewed and found to be missing required information, notably criminal checks, national checks, physical forms etc. The director agreed to complete these updates and inform licensing; and did so by the writing of this report.

The center has a long-standing policy handbook for children and staff.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

The staff were observed to be consistently engaged with the children and responsive to their needs. There were many observations of staff working together to ensure children needs are met.

The center has higher enrollment.

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 video cameras in every room that record.

The staff wear uniforms and are easily identified as staff.

Staff conduct many activities with the children and maintain structure in their rooms.

The center has good communication with families and also uses the Bright Wheel app.

The administrative team work well together and are a strong team.

The administrative team lets staff know they are valued and appreciated with recognition of a task well done and monthly staff meetings with positive feedback/support.

There are center staff who have worked at the center since the center opened 4 years ago. The center has a strong core group of staff who are passionate about providing quality care and love what they do.

There are staff pictures outside of each classroom.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

Please review all staff files and make sure all staff have current criminal and national record checks and had done so as of the writing of the report.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in May 2023, with all rooms tested below the recommended levels. Four of eight rooms were tested; it it recommended that all rooms be tested.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The director will ensure a review of all staff files occurs and updates occur as required by Iowa Law, at least yearly.

Continued licensure is recommended.

*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.