

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

**Name of Center:** ABC Learning Early Childhood Center      **Enrollment:** 172      **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18849

**Street:** 15 Nightengale LN      **City:** Dubuque      Iowa      **Zip:** 52003      **County:** Dubuque

**Mailing Address:** 15 Nightengale LN, Dubuque, IA, 52003

**Director's Name:** Melissa Donovan      **Phone Number:** 563-583-6654

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Genevieve Sorensen      **E-Mail:** rbirch1087@aol.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 04-22-2020

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 12-05-2018

**Comments :**

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

**Financial Type:**      X      Profit      Non-Profit      NA

**Accreditation:**      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

<b>HOURS:</b>	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
<b>LICENSE CAPACITY</b>	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	52	20	41	22	135
Summer					0

**QRS Rating:**   4

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b>	
X	<b>FULL</b> license from 08-01-2020 to 08-01-2022
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from
	<b>DENIAL</b> of initial application
	<b>SUSPENSION</b> of license
	<b>REVOCACTION</b> of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

Date: 05-05-2020

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 4/22/20. The center owner/director, Melissa Donovan, was present for the visit as were other staff. Melissa accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the licensing visit. The center, at this location, has been in operation since 6/4/12. It is noted that Melissa owned a center previous to this with the same name, however, that location closed just prior to this new location opening. Melissa was able to purchase this property and completed extensive remodeling to the building to transform it into a large child care center. Melissa remains qualified as a director with her experience and training. This is a large center using space on the main floor of the building. There is space upstairs that is currently used for storage and some utilities. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool program.

Program rooms include the following: Little Learners (two years); Discovery Drive (three years); PreK Parkway (voluntary prek room/fours/fives child care); Stepping Stone Street (school age on non school days and before and after school, fours/fives child care); Crayola Court (18 to 24 months); Whipper Snapper Way (nine to 18 months); and Lullaby Lane (six weeks to approximately nine months). Materials are accessible to the children in all program rooms. Program rooms are large, bright, and colorful. Most program rooms included adjacent restroom areas and sinks within the program rooms as well. Infant rooms include diaper stations and/or restroom areas adjacent with enough sinks to accommodate food preparation and hand washing if used appropriately. All program space was observed.

The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, and snack. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The center employs a cook and all meals and snacks are prepared on site in the center's kitchen. The kitchen is organized.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The director identifies having over 20 years of experience in the child care field and has completed some additional college coursework in the field of education. Program rooms are large and organized and offer plenty of space for activities. Program rooms are bright with windows and also have access to the outdoor play area. Activity planning continues to be done quite well at this center, and staff were once again observed to be highly engaged with the children in program activities in all program rooms. Crafts and projects continue to be posted throughout the program rooms. The center completes daily sheets for all children age three and under and some four year and older children if requested by the parent (s). The program participates in the local AEA program to borrow materials to enhance/supplement programming. The center has achieved a four star QRS rating through 8/1/20 and still plans to apply for the highest five star rating. The center continues to have a strong partnership with the local CCRR and CCNC consultants. The center director listed the following new and numerous plans for enhancing/improving the center:

- Purchased new changing tables for some rooms.
- Purchased new outdoor play items (consulted with CCRR on these purchases).
- Plans for additional licensed child care space on the second floor of the building.
- Purchased new chair, play mats, etc. for the youngest infant room.
- Repainting the interior of the entire center.
- Developed a new infant curriculum.

Assigned each classroom with their own email address to enhance communication between parents and their children's staff. Additional gardening planned for the summer including allowing each child to plan their own area (center also uses the fresh foods from the garden).

Partnering with the Dubuque County Extension Farm to Table program. Staff from that office will visit the center to work with the children on projects.

Plans for the center to explore the Dubuque County Fair and also various job trades in partnership with the parents of the children.

Building an internal training video library through a private YouTube channel created by/for the center staff.

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

N/A

#### **V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing indicating that the concerns with radon have been resolved was received on 6/29/20. The report is now able to be completed and license issued.

It is noted that though all program space was observed, the main focus/topic of this year's visit was to discuss health and safety practices as they pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic. The center director outlined all of the additional health and safety practices she and the staff have put into place as recommended in response.

The center will remain with a full license. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

\*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.