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

Name of Center: Blessings Care for Kids **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52080

Street: 6820 Ashworth RD **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1816 Strauss AVE, Adel, IA, 50003

Director's Name: Gina Nunez **Phone Number:** 515-318-2965

On-Site Supervisor(s): Grace Ann Matis **E-Mail:** ginap10@icloud.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 01-17-2023

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	8	14	10	10	42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-18-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/7/23. The director/owner was present throughout the entire visit and the on-site supervisor for portions of the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Blessings Care for Kids is center that is located in the lower level of Grace West Church in West Des Moines. The center opened for business on 1/3/23. The current owner was previously the on-site supervisor and bought the center from the previous owner. The center serves children six weeks in age to 12 years old and they us the Preschool Palace Curriculum in their teaching of children. The center is open year-round, Monday – Friday. There are three classrooms with a capacity of six children, four children (infant room), and 31 children.

The owner/director of the center is Gina Nunez. As stated above, Gina was previously the on-site supervisor under the former owner. Gina has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care. The on-site supervisor is Grace Ann Matis. Grace has prior experience working in child care and has taken a number of professional development courses to meet the requirements for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, children were engaged in free-choice play in some classrooms and engaged in a large group dance activity facilitated by staff in the big classroom. Later, children were observed washing their hands before sitting down for lunch. Children were separated by age while eating in the large room with the infants remaining in their classroom.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff use walkie talkies to better communicate with each other when they are spaced out in different places.

The owner is currently looking into IQ4K which is a program based on best practice.

The owner/director has a lot of experience working in child care.

The center uses the app Playground.

Files were nicely organized.

Enrollment is steady.

The owner/director feels her center has a small, family feel to it. Staff work to get to know their parents.

Staff are eligible for benefits.

The program has purchased several new toys, appliances, and other equipment since the owner took over ownership of the center.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
On the playground, more pea gravel is needed at the bottom of the slide so that sufficient fall zone surfacing can be met.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
All infant bottles should be labeled to identify whose child bottle it is.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
1. The daily schedule needs to be adjusted in the big room to reflect meals and snack are at least two hours apart and no more than three (unless napping).
2. Cows milk needs to be skim or one percent. Two percent was observed in the refrigerator.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 1/8/21 - 1/11/21 under the previous ownership. Because radon levels in all three classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff, radon testing can now be done at least every five years (no later than 1/2026).

The furnace was last serviced on 1/25/23.

For transportation/field trips, the center takes their own staff vehicles. Documentation of regular maintenance of vehicles should be kept in a binder. First-aid kits and children's emergency contacts will also need to be in vehicles. Children ages five and older are eligible for field trips which are also only taken during summer months.

Substitutions should be noted for meals.

It is recommended either the portable sink or the diapering table be moved so that these two items are next to each other in the infant room.

It is recommended several of the container devices in the infant room be removed. Best practice is that these devices not be used.

It was noted that an upstairs classroom (not currently being used) was approved for use in the past.

The Emergency Preparedness Kit should be stored in a more accessible area in the even it is needed.

On 4/17/23, this consultant sent the following email to the owner/director after reviewing the center handbooks:
Hi Gina,
I just had a chance to review your handbooks. Overall, very good. A few of things:

1. Move your lost/abducted child policy on page 3 of parent handbook to under your emergency procedures area.
2. Under your injury policy, add that 911 will also be contacted if needed for emergency injuries.
3. Under pick up policy, add “parents have unlimited access to their child and center staff during center hours of operation unless restricted by a court order. You touch on this, but I’d state this specifically.

A new, full, two-year license 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.