Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Blessings Care for Kids

Provider No.: 52080

Address: 6820 Ashworth RD, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Gina Nunez

On-Site Supervisor: Nicole Sabatino and Samantha Nielsen

Phone Number: 5153182965

E-Mail: ginap10@icloud.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/25/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/09/2026

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing, these inspections are due at least every three years. The City of West Des Moines Fire Marshals typically do annual inspections.

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	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	14	22	10	54
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 3/25/26. The owner/director was present throughout this inspection.

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.

Blessings Care for Kids is center that is located in a wing of Grace West Church in West Des Moines. The center opened for business under HHS supervision 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 use their own learning curriculum with children that is based off a combination of other learning curriculums. 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 on the lower level and then another classroom on the second level that has a capacity of 12 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 supervisors are Nicole Sabatino and Samantha Nielsen. Both individuals meet the requirements for on-site supervisor.

During the inspection, children were initially observed eating lunch. Children (minus the infant children upstairs) were separated by age groups and eating at the tables and chairs in the largest classroom. Children stated they washed hands before sitting down for lunch and then were observed washing their hands after lunch. Children were then divided up for a large motor activity and then nap time. In the infant classroom, children were observed being held, staff sitting on the floor

interacting with children, and children napping in cribs. Toys and other equipment are cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily.

NUTRITION: The center serves children an AM snack, lunch, and PM snack. Staff take turns cooking. All food storage was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has a 12-passenger van. Regular maintenance is performed on this van. The van is used to take preschool children to/from certain schools in the Des Moines Metro area. The van is also used for field trips. For all transportation needs, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along. There are booster seats for children who need them.

PLAYGROUND: The center has primarily an area set aside for a stationary climbing structure that has swings, a slide, and a climbing wall. Pea gravel is used for surfacing and was sufficient at the time of the inspection. However, it is recommended outdoor playground mats still be purchased and placed under swings and at the bottom of the slide to help preserve pea gravel depth and surfacing.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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

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

The center uses the electronic app Playground. The center also has a Facebook page, Instagram page, and website.

Files were nicely organized.

Enrollment is steady.

The center has a small, family feel to it. Staff work to get to know their parents. Staff work well together. There is staff retention. The owner believes she has a good staff.

There are good community partnerships and with other child care programs.

Staff are eligible for benefits.

Sign language is taught to children.

The center works closely with CCR&R and as well as their nurse consultant (CCNC).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa’s training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
One newer staff member now has all of the above, but several of them were completed after the first 90 days of employment.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
There was a dangling cord in one of the smaller downstairs classrooms that needed to be more securely fastened to the wall

and/or tucked behind other equipment.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. 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. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Per CACFP requirements, milk served to children needs to be one percent or skim cows milk and not two percent as observed on the day of the inspection.

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

The below items should be corrected once the center receives this licensing report and then also be maintained.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed 3/10/26 - 3/12/26. Radon levels in classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The furnace was last serviced on 3/10/26.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I-Power profiles and are uploading training certificates.

IQ4K was discussed at the inspection. The center has had some discussions with their CCR&R person about this process.

It is again recommended that outdoor playground mats be purchased and placed under swings and at the bottom of the slide to help better preserve the pea gravel surfacing.

It is recommended the one child bounce container in the infant classroom be removed.

The most current diapering procedures posting was emailed to the center after the inspection concluded.

Monthly playground inspections should be documented on the most current form. The center was using an older form for 2026 inspections to date. The center does have the most current form.

The center license should be posted by the main entrance and parent board. The center initially had an older license posted in this area and the current license posted in another classroom/owner's office.

For more difficult child behaviors, the center has implemented a "calm down corner" that has different games and puzzles for children. The center also utilizes a "feelings board" so children can visualize how they are feeling. Staff promote teamwork and good communication between each other. There is also more frequent communication with parents in the form of weekly progress reports .

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Date: 03/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.