Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lawton-Bronson B-4 & After the Bell & Summer Bell

Provider No.: 28950

Address: 113 W 1st St, Bronson, IA, 51007

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Jana Rowe

On-Site Supervisor: Charles Prior

Phone Number: 7129483361

E-Mail: rowej@lb-eagles.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/11/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/27/2025

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	7:00 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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General				75	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On February 11, 2026, I conducted an unannounced visit at the Lawton-Bronson After School and Summer Program, located in the Bronson Elementary School building. During the visit, I met with Program Directors Charles Prior and Jana Rowe. Mr. Prior holds a Master's degree in Education and brings many years of experience working with children. Ms. Rowe also has extensive experience and holds a Paraeducator Certification.
The program is operated by the Lawton-Bronson School District and utilizes multiple areas within the school, including the art and music rooms, library, gymnasium, a third-grade classroom, and the commons/cafeteria.

During the school year this program serves preschool and school-age children Monday through Friday, 7:00–8:00 a.m. and 3:30–5:30 p.m. (with an early dismissal hour on Wednesdays). During the summer the program serves school age children. Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Currently, 55 children are enrolled in the after-school program, and approximately 100 children participate in the summer program. At the time of my visit, 34 children were present.

All program areas were observed, including classroom activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, playground supervision, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative operations.

The after-school program offers a variety of group activities and opportunities for individual self-directed play. During the summer, activity centers are set up in the cafeteria and include blocks/Legos, puzzles, toys, books, STEM Activities and arts/crafts. Academic activities are scheduled in the mornings, followed by center-based activities in the afternoons when field trips are not planned.

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The summer program offers exciting opportunities for exploration and learning. Children enjoy a variety of field trips, including visits to the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, fishing adventures, hikes along Adams Nature Trail, and even hands-on pond studies. Each experience is designed to spark curiosity and foster a love for nature. The program emphasizes hands-on learning, allowing children to actively engage with their environment and discover through real-world experiences.

I observed a well-structured environment where routines were clearly established, creating a sense of consistency for the children. Staff were actively engaged with the children, offering support, encouragement, and guidance throughout activities. Their interactions reflected genuine care and attentiveness, fostering a positive and nurturing atmosphere.

Snacks are provided by parents during the school year. In the summer, children bring snacks and sack lunches. While the program follows CACFP nutrition guidelines, it is not currently enrolled in the food program. Parents receive guidance on healthy snack and lunch options. The center does not administer medication. A complete first aid kit is available, and fire/tornado drills are documented monthly. Annual furnace inspections complete as well as radon testing which was within normal limits. Please ensure that cupboards under sink are locked.

The program utilizes the Playground Childcare App for administrative tasks. Staff reported a smooth transition to the app and noted that it has strengthened communication with parents, including assistance with app navigation when needed.

Staff have successfully completed PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training, which equips them with strategies to promote positive behaviors and create a supportive, inclusive environment for all children. This training reflects the program's commitment to fostering social-emotional growth and maintaining a structured, nurturing atmosphere.

I spoke with Jana and Charles regarding the steps they take when discipline is needed. They described a positive approach that includes a "check-in/check-out" system, where children have the opportunity to earn rewards for demonstrating good behavior. In addition, staff encourage accountability by guiding the child to reflect on their actions. Children are asked to explain what happened and identify strategies for improving their behavior moving forward. This approach promotes responsibility and supports social-emotional growth in a constructive manner.

The program's goals are to continue adhering to Iowa HHS licensing standards while building confidence in their new leadership roles. Both Jana and Charles expressed that they feel the program is moving in a positive direction and are committed to maintaining compliance and quality care as they grow in experience.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Both program directors as well as their staff, bring a wealth of experience and strong educational backgrounds, which shine through in their thoughtful approach to caring for children. Their expertise and commitment create a nurturing, well-managed environment where children can thrive and families feel confident in the quality of care provided. Staff want this program to be fun for the students.

The program provides a rich mix of experiences that nurture creativity, academic growth, and social development. During the school year, children enjoy art, music, and structured learning centers that encourage exploration and self-expression. In the summer, the program truly shines with hands-on learning opportunities and exciting field trips. These experiences allow children to connect with the outdoors, build problem-solving skills, and develop a deeper appreciation for the world around them—all while having fun in a safe, supportive environment.

Strong Communication with Families: The use of the Playground Childcare App enhances parent engagement and streamlines administrative processes.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved

by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.

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.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The program will email consultant by 03/31/26 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license will remain in effect.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

I encourage this center to continue to work with their CCRR consultant.

Date: 02/12/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.