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

Name of Center: Children's Inc **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48769

Street: 8912 NE 46th Ave **City:** Altoona Iowa **Zip** 50009 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 507 12th ST SE, Altoona, IA, 50009

Director's Name: Melanie Bates **Phone Number:** 515-537-4896

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** miche8815@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-02-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-17-2025

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

Date Inspected: 08-28-2023

Comments : 9/27/23 - date of compliance

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	6	10	17	9	42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 05-12-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Children's Inc has been in operation since 2006, under a licensed home registration. This center is located in a single standing building. The daycare offers child care services for children ages two through school age. Melanie Bates is the owner and director of this center.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the daycare's entrance. Classrooms have schedules posted by their doors. Classrooms had lesson plans available. Classrooms have age appropriate furnishings and toys in place. Older children's classrooms have interest centers.

An unannounced visit was completed today. Melanie assisted with today's visit. The Littles classroom (2's - 3's) was the only room in operation today. There were eleven children present. The children were two and three year olds. Two staff were working in this classroom. Some of the children were from the PreK (3's - 4's) class. The other children from the PreK class were at preschool at the public school. There were no school age children present during the visit. Children were observed during transition times, during small group activities and during child directed play. Staff led the children in singing songs and reading books together. Staff assisted children while they were getting up from naptime.

The center has a full kitchen. Melanie does the majority of cooking. Menus are on a four week rotation. Menus were reviewed and showed compliance with CACFP.

The center has a few outdoor playground areas. There are shade structures for all areas. The playground has fencing. There is grass and some concrete for surfacing. Playground checklists are completed monthly.

The center owns two mini vans that are used for transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Melanie has twenty years of experience working in the child care field prior to Children's Inc becoming a licensed center in 2017. The center worked with CCR&R and participated in QRS as a registered home provider. Melanie has some employees who have worked with her for many years.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.

There was an outdoor toddler toy that was on brick surfacing. The toy requires fall zone surfacing as it is higher than eighteen inches. Melanie said she would remove the toy from the center as the center doesn't have fall zone surfacing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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