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

Name of Center: Iowa's Child Early Learning Community **Enrollment:** 225 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50547

Street: 135 E Douglas Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50313 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 135 E Douglas Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50313

Director's Name: Tracey Bolin **Phone Number:** 515-282-1729

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amanda **E-Mail:** tbolin@iowaschildelc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-20-2025

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:** 04-15-2025

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

Date Inspected: 03-28-2024

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections be done at least every three years.

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 X 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	20	70	70	120	280
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

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: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-28-2025

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 5/20/25. The director was present throughout the visit. Co-Owner Blaine Bolin was by phone and later in person.

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.

Iowa's Child Early Learning Community was given permission to open on 4/29/19. This program was formerly known as Bear Basics under the previous ownership. As of 4/29/19, the center is under a new name and new ownership. The center serves children roughly six weeks in age to 12 years in age and they use the Creative Learning Curriculum and Big Day Learning Curriculum with lesson planning. The center is open year-round, Monday - Friday, 5:30am - 10:00pm and then again on Saturdays from 6:00am - 6:00pm.

This is a family owned business. The director of the center is Tracey Bolin. Tracey has over 20 years' of experience working in child care. Amanda Watkins is the on-site supervisor. She has an associates degree and several years of child care experience; meeting the requirements.

Room observations/activities: The center crafts lesson plans by pulling from Iowa Early Learning standards and uses the procare application to communicate with parents. The classrooms were in ratio; with staff being observed attentive to the children by leading group activities or tending to individual needs. The children were content and approached staff for assistance or for reassurance. The classrooms offer a variety of toys and playcenters. Staff maintained structure in the classrooms. There were handwashing posters and restrooms that offered necessary toiletries. The owners are updating flooring as budget allows.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The center is enrolled in the CACFP program and has menus in-line with this criteria, crafted by the director. Menus were posted. The kitchen was organized and clean. Younger children eat family-style in their rooms, and older children eat cafeteria style.

Health and safety: Medication in securely locked in an easy to access area for staff. Handwashing signs were posted. First aid kits were observed in all the rooms, one needed a label and was labeled while this visit took place. Tornado/Fire emergency plans/diagrams were posted. Drills documented completed. Radon was completed 2023, with results under 4.0, so would be due again 2028. HVAC was last professionally inspected 7/23/24. There is a Carbon Monoxide detector in the library (1st floor) and in school age room (2nd floor). The center has an off-site evacuation/disaster plan that is reviewed with staff upon hire and then annually.

Playground: Playground safety checks are completed. The playground in enclosed by chain link. There is natural shade. There are play structures which were in good repair. A new storage building had just been added to house small play equipment in 2-24.. Safety surfacing is wood chips.

Transportation: The center provides some transportation to/from school while operating and maintaining at least 2 buses, and a 15-passenger van.

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporter; handbook, consultant contact (new one sent), license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking were posted. Seven child files were reviewed with all required information; five staff files were reviewed with one in need of a repeat Iowa Background check (SING check) and one employee needing to finish essentials training.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has attained Level 3 in IQ4K quality rating (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on)

A staff recognition program is in place and staff have their own, personal break room which they didn't always have in the past.

The center has been under a new name and new management now for five+ years roughly.

There is secure/uniform entrance/exit at the center. The center is also using the Pro-Care system for parents to sign children into/out of the center. Kid Reports are used for daily sheets.

The center has been working regularly with CCR&R and their nurse consultant.

The center participates in CACFP.

There is a continued focus/theme on respect, responsibility, safe, and kind.

The center works in collaboration with AEA, mobile dentist, mobile vision and health screenings, therapists, and other outside agencies.

The center provides alternative hours of care and are one of the few centers in the Des Moines Metro that has extended hours.

The center offers staff health insurance.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. There was a need arise for a staff to have repeated SING checks.

109.7(3): During their first three months of employment, all staff shall receive the following training:Two hours of Iowa's training for mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC 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, approved by the department.

one staff needed to finished essential training.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 5

Physicals are required within six months PRIOR to hire and then every three years.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed in classrooms 2/25/23 - 2/27/23. Because radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff, radon testing can now move to being done at least every five years.

A 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.