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

Name of Center: Blessings Care for Kids **Enrollment:** 45 **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): Nicole Sabatino and Samantha Nielsen **E-Mail:** ginap10@icloud.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-31-2025

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:** 03-21-2025

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

Date Inspected: 02-25-2025

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	22	10	54
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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 03-31-2025

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 3/31/25. The owner/director was present throughout the entire visit and the on-site supervisors 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.

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 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 visit, children were observed in a large group activity being facilitated by staff, washing their hands, eating lunch, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were observed walking around and interacting with children. Children gave specific answers to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

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

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

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.

Staff are eligible for benefits.

Over the past year, the center has purchased a new 12-passenger van for field trips. The center has also developed a new learning curriculum.

Sign language is taught to children.

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

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.
The area at the bottom of the slide did not have enough pea ground depth/surfacing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 1/8/21 - 1/11/21 under the previous ownership. 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 1/23/25.

For transportation/field trips, the center has a 12-passenger van. Regular maintenance is performed on this van.

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

The center has discussed IQ4K and working with their CCR&R consultant on this .

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 Boppy pillows be removed from the infant classroom.

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.