Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Bobcat Academy

Provider No.: 47667

Address: 1910 S Center St, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

County: Marshall

Director's Name: Ashley Johnson/Amber Young

On-Site Supervisor: NA

Phone Number: 6413281921

E-Mail: ashley@bobcatacademy.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/01/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/01/2022

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. By Marshalltown Fire Dept, Josh Warnell.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

Health and Human Services

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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	40	35	79	30	184
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 10-1-24. Both Co-directors/Co-Owners were present through the visit.

Bobcat Academy opened for business on August 15, 2016. The co-owners and directors are Ashley Johnson and Amber Young, who both meet the requirements to be directors. They both have taught in school systems, and both have their Master's Degree. Ashley has a Master's of Education and Amber has her Master's in Special Education. They both also have their Early Childhood Endorsement.

This center is the sole occupant of the building and is open from 7:00 am-5:00 pm. They provide year round care. They serve children from infant age up through fourth grade. .

This center offers traditional full-time daycare along with the option of pre-school programing for ages 2-5. There are 10 classrooms and include two additional experience rooms which are designed to offer other opportunities to learn through play and to use imaginations. There is also an indoor gym for large motor play. The Bright Wheel application is used to communicate with parents. There was a good variety of toys and play centers in each classroom. The children were transitioning between lunch and a rest period when the visit took place. The teachers were observed to be responsive to the children and children to be content. Several infant and toddler rooms were too dark to allow for close/continuous supervision in such a manner that did not allow for the teacher to maintain close supervision. Discussion took place that additional low-lighting would be added to the classrooms.

Bobcat Academy offers snacks and lunch prepared on-site. Menus are in line with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating.

This center provides transportation for field trips and before/after school with vans (15-passenger) or contracts with a church to utilize church buses and a professional driver.

Bobcat Academy has an indoor and outdoor large motor play areas both offers learning activities and/or play structures.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Bobcat Academy has achieved Level 3 in IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's 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).

The owners/directors have a strong background in the field of education and work well together. The center has teachers that utilize the WAGE$ (Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa.) and TEACH (TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.)

The staff is composed of licensed and experienced teachers who also share the director's vision of early childhood education.

The center has a strong core of staff that have been with the center since the center opened.

The center has a secure entrance.

The children who attend preschool at this center are ready and prepared for Kindergarten.

Enrollment remains high and steady, there is a wait-list for some ages.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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. Lighting in the infant/toddler class rooms was observed to be insufficient to allow teachers to closely supervise the children during a rest period. Discussion took place with the co-directors of adding low-lighting in the classrooms that would still allow for rest and provide sufficient light to closely supervise.

109.12(4)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their backs for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface.No child shall be allowed to sleep in any item not designed for infant sleeping, including but not limited to an infant seat, car seat, swing, or bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required and an expiration date. The infant rooms were observed to be too dark during their rest period. One infant room is somewhat L-shaped and insufficient lighting along with teacher placement did not allow for continuous observation by sight and sound . Discussion took place and a lamp was turned on providing lower light but sufficient enough to allow for sight observation and the teacher did move placement in the room to sustain close sight supervision.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed 11/9/23 and all rooms under the 4.0 cutoff.

Classrooms offer a good variety of learning centers and toys; teachers were very responsive to the children in their classrooms and children were observed to be content.

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Date: 10/10/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.