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

Name of Center: Beautiful Beginnings **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27374

Street: 1701 W Jester Park DR **City:** Polk City Iowa **Zip** 50226 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1701 W Jester Park DR, Polk City, IA, 50226

Director's Name: Haley Carpenter-Smith **Phone Number:** 515-984-6146

On-Site Supervisor(s): Christy Hauger and Michelle Smith **E-Mail:** beautiful_beginnings1@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-08-2024

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:** 06-28-2024

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

Date Inspected: 07-12-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X 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	24	17	40	50	131
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-09-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit took place 7/8/24. Haley Carpenter-Smith, Director was present through this visit.

All areas of the program were observed and consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and Beautiful Beginnings is a child care and preschool program that is located in one wing of the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church In Polk City, IA. The original church structure was built in 1991 and a new addition was added in 2004. The center serves children ages six weeks in age to roughly 12 years, however due to staffing difficulty, there is not a school-age program at this time. Current enrollment is 56, with care provided Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

There is a Center Board as well as a Church Board that oversee the center operations. Haley Carpenter-Smith was named director in 2023; she has previous child care experience and meets the points criteria for director. There are two on-site supervisors, Christy Hauger and Michelle Smith. Both individuals have worked in child care for several years and meet the qualifications for on-site supervisors.

All areas of the program were observed 8/22/23.

Observation of Rooms: All rooms were in ratio on this day. The center utilizes creative curriculum for lesson planning and the pro-care application to communicate with parents/documentation. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers and toys available in each room. The staff maintain good structure in the rooms and were observed to be nurturing with the children. The center is utilizing bleach water and soapy water for cleaning/sanitization. The changing table in the 1's rooms was in need of deep cleaning, otherwise this center was clean, organized and nicely arranged.

Nutrition: The center shares kitchen usage with the church; separate areas for storage of food and supplies are kept. The kitchen was very clean; and updated. The center has a dedicated staff to prepare meals, on a 5-week menu rotation in-line with CACFP guidelines. The food is prepared on site and served to the children family-style in the classrooms. The staff are interactive with the children through breakfast, lunch and snack times.

Health and Safety: When medication is needed at the center, it is stored securely. There were stocked first aid equipment. Emergency plans were conspicuously posted. Review of the Emergency drill (fire/tornado) revealed drills had been completed with the exception of a few months; and safety checks of the playground had also been completed. The fuel-burning heating/cooling and cooking systems in the facility are maintained by the church.. Restrooms were orderly and appeared clean. The center overall is organized and kept clean.

Playground: This center has the choice of outside play area, enclosed with chain link fencing and divided by age appropriate equipment or use of the gym for recreation. The playground areas were in good condition without obvious hazards. Safety surfacing is pour in place; there are shade structures available also.

Transportation: The center has a new 15 passenger van purchased for before and after school transportation.

Administrative records: The center had conspicuously posted mandatory reporter information; handbook availability; consultant contact (sent updated), license, along with fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking signs. Five staff files were reviewed with two needing updated CPR training that the director stated were updated, but had not received certificates for; and one staff needing to update mandatory reporter training. There was one staff needing to update physical form. Seven child files were reviewed; two missing emergency contact for dentist and one missing emergency contact for medical doctor. This center has well-establish policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center continues to maintain a strong relationship and partnership with the church.

The center has a strong reputation in the community.

The staff communicate well with the families and maintains a website.

The center has a long waiting list for enrollment. The staffing shortages have impacted enrollment in the past.

The center uses the Pro Care system and has a secure entrance.

The center does a vision screening for children ages six months to four years of age and free of charge.

Cameras and monitors are in every classroom, including the playground and parking lot; so that the director can see what is going on in the classrooms from the office.

The center has a good core group of staff who care about the children with several staff at the center for over 10 years.

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

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: 1

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 3

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 2

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-Some months (Jan) missing in documentation.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was submitted July 2024 and results are pending.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Staff were consistently observed interacting with the children; providing nurturing and structured environment.

A new two year full 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.