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

Name of Center: Building Blocks Preschool & Child Care **Enrollment:** 187 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30114

Street: 1171 Outer DR N **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51104 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 1171 Outer DR N, Sioux City, IA, 51104

Director's Name: Erica Tessler & Stacy Eldridge **Phone Number:** 712-226-2223

On-Site Supervisor(s): Whitney Lacek **E-Mail:** stacy.e.eldridge@gmail.com bbn.director1@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-04-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-05-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-18-2024

Comments : Erica Tessler became co-director with Stacy Eldridge in January 2024 as Jessica Buckles went to another Building Blocks Center. Erica was director at their LeMars location and when that site closed she transferred to this site. Erica has her CDA and several years working in childcare. She is currently attending school for Elementary Education.

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	52	24	109	32	217
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 09-06-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A visit was made to Building Blocks on 09-04-24 and spoke with new Co-Director Erica Tessler. Also briefly visited with, Director Stacy Eldridge present. Stacy Eldredge became the director for the site in July 2019. Stacey is also owner of the center. Erica Tessler became the co-director in January 2024. Erica has her CDA and 10 years experice in childcare. She is working on her degree in Elementary Education. Whitney Lacek is the onsite supervisor. Whitney has worked at the center for the last 5 years.

Building Blocks Childcare & Preschool is a center that is located in a building that was built specifically for childcare. There are 13 rooms on the main floor, one large room on the second floor (for school age), a large eating area and a large kitchen where all the meals are prepared. The center operates Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. There are 130 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 127 children present. The program serves infants through school age. The center is locked and you need a pass code to enter or staff must let you into the building. At the time of the visit due to lower numbers they are only using 10 of the 13 rooms.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. Given the current corona-virus pandemic, time was spent on discussing how the center is managing. The center is following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Children have access to bathrooms. Displayed throughout the room were colors, numbers, food groups, nursery rhyme characters, children's artwork, picture schedule for the children, treasure chests, pictures of the children in various activities, shapes and the alphabet.

In the two Infant rooms and through out the other rooms there was sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children in the room. Children have access to a diaper changing area and sink. Toys are at the children’s level and accessible.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Refrigerators are clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The kitchen is not accessible to the children. All meals are prepared onsite. The center participates in the CACFP program.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon testing were completed however, did not have a result, therefore, need to be redone in each child occupied room. Furnace inspection was completed. Carbon monoxide detector is contained within the heating system.

Center Playground
Two playgrounds are located next to the center. One for the older children and one for children under 2 years of age. The playground for older children has slides, climbing equipment, toys, stage and trikes. The playground for the younger children has riding equipment, playhouses, picnic tables, slides, toys, balls and a rocking horse. The toddler playground was under construction(just added new mulch and putting equipment back in) and currently not being used. Center took out the pea gravel surfacing material and put in wood mulch around all of the equipment. Shade is available on the playground. Mulch needs to be raked to cover underlayment to avoid any tripping hazards.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The center has four vans and a bus for transporting the children to and from school and for field trips. Center has maintenance records for the vehicles. Center transport children to Leeds, Perry Creek, and Bryant Elementary Schools as well as on field trips during the summer. Parent permission forms are completed for children who leave the center for field trips.

Monthly Fire and Tornado drills are documented along with playground inspections.

Goals of the center are to add more qualified staff and work on classroom goals. The program is working on getting on the IQ4K program.

Strengths of the program is director tries to make the center feel like a home environment and festive. Director tries to lead by example and willing to go into rooms to support staff. Director feels that staff works well as a team and continue in implementing curriculum in their rooms. Good relationship with the children/families they serve. Consistency in leadership. Staff continuing in engaging with their rooms and policies of the center. The program does 2x year professional development days to ensure staff are able to complete their necessary training requirements.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program and in each classroom.
Conferences two times a year with parents of preschool children.
Children's art work displayed in the rooms.
Children's toys are at their level and accessible.
Staff interact with the children in a positive manner.
Part of the preschool initiative.
The center participates in the child care wages project through the TEACH Program - staff can earn money depending on their degree and length of time working in the program.

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

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 dental: 3
Information lacking: Information was missing or outdated.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Center needs to rake playground or add more mulch to cover bare spots to avoid any tripping hazards.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please provide consultant with an email confirming that those items that fall blow standards have been completed by 10-01-24.

Reminder staff physicals should be completed on HHS and prior to starting at the center.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.