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

Name of Center: Precious Beginnings Children's Center **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51603

Street: 4101 Amherst St **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50313 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: HPCDA Inc4101 Amherst ST, Des Moines, IA, 50313

Director's Name: Abigail **Phone Number:** 515-422-4386

On-Site Supervisor(s): Herman **E-Mail:** abigail.herman04@gmail.com philip@hpccdsm.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-12-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-14-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-15-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least 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	16	12	47	65	140
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

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

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

This center is placed on a provisional license (2nd); with a corrective action plan dated 2/14/24 with a due date of 2/24/24. Center shall maintain all requirements for six months before a full-license could be considered.

On July 15, 2022, an additional corrective action plan in steps was provided to Precious Beginnings Children's Center. The following are the necessary corrections:

1. Each employee, substitute, volunteer shall sign a statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters.
>several staff files reviewed on 7/12/24 were missing this documentation
>The director (Abigail Herman) and Board member Philip Herman provided the missing documentation

2. Pastor Phillip Herman's records were not provided. Pastor Philip is a board member to the child care center; Pastor Philip is often on the premises and assumes a supervisory and caretaker role for children at the child care center and/or directing staff. Per Iowa Administrative Code 109.6(5)c: Pastor Philip is required to provide records/complete training.
>Pastor Philip provided some records checks for himself in email on 7/22/24
>Pastor Philip provided additional required records for himself in email on 8/5/24, including CPR/1st aid training

3. National Criminal History Checks (fingerprints) are submitted properly to attain valid results; Checks shall be maintained with timely repeat
checks; Center will develop organization system to aide in keeping checks up to date. Per Iowa Administrative Code 109.9(1)B
>Pastor Philip provided missing staff record checks by email (for current employees)
>Pastor Philip provided updated information with regard to current staff members (some missing checks belong to individuals no longer
working for the center)

4. ALL STAFF SHALL who have not yet provided or provided x3 years prior will provide center will documentation of physical exam record. Per Iowa Administrative Code 109.9(1)d.
>The Director and Pastor Philip provided documentation of physicals that had been completed

5. All staff will complete CPR/First aid in its entirety and provide completion certificate within first three months of employment and maintain current certification. Per Iowa Administrative Code 109.7(1).
> On 8/5/24 via email Pastor Philip provided current CPR/First Aid certificates and mandatory reporter trainings for employees that were not
present when reviewed 7/14/24 during site visit.
>On 8/14/24 Director Abigail Herman provided an additional staff CPR/First Aide certificate.

6. Director shall reach out for assistance from Child Care Nurse Consultant to set an appointment for ALL staff to observe demonstration/retraining on proper handwashing procedures and cleaning/sanitization as it relates to handwashing post-diapering and restroom use and proper cleaning and sanitization of changing tables to quell disease transmission; Education regarding chemicals such as room fresheners or other aerosols that are prohibited from use in a center and alternatives. Per Iowa Administrative Code 109.10(8) and 109.11(3)a.
> Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC)Liz Ludwig, child care nursing consultant indicated a visit to the child care

center was completed by
her on 8/2/24.
> CCNC Liz documents providing instruction/resources for properly mixing bleach for cleaning/sanitizing along with instructions to have a
garbage container with in arms reach of changing table to dispose of dirty diapers.
>CCNC Liz provided instruction/reminder to have handwashing posters where ever hand washing to to take place; providing a link to the
flier for handwashing to the director
>CCNC Liz Ludwig observed Jewelry on toddler in 1's main- this was addressed immediately. Reached out to HHS for guidance. Forwarded
emails to director, asked that jewelry to be removed and handbook policy updated. (director also reached out to me to collaborate having
the jewelry removed.
>CCNC Liz Ludwig notes the changing pad in the one year old room has broken down and is not effective in keeping a sanitary surface,
needs immediate replacement.
>CCNC Liz Ludwig notes providing education regarding limited time in bouncy seats is 15 minutes or less; however on 8/2/24, Liz observed
a child in a bouncy seat for 20+ minutes

7. Center shall secure and enact use of carbon monoxide detectors [complete); Center shall provide documentation that HVAC has been professionally inspected, at least annually. Per IAC 109.11(7)c
>Pastor Philip provided a scanned receipt of completed HVAC inspection

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit to address the second provisional licensure took place 7/12/24; present for this visit was Director Abigail Herman. A corrective Action plan resulted from the visit on 7/12/24 to assist the center to being in compliance with several licensing standards.

Previously, An announced visit was completed 9/18/23 to address provisional licensure set in place 3/30/23 signed by the director on 4/3/23. Present for this visit was Director Philip Herman. An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 1-26-24; with Pastor Philip Herman (former director) and current Director Abigail Herman present during different times.

Precious Beginnings was given Permission to Open on 9/28/2021 and offers traditional childcare for children ages 6 week to 12 years, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The center is located in the Highland Park Community Church, in the basement. This is a non-profit center with a board of directors. Pastor Philip Herman is the Director of Community Engagement and has oversight over this program. Pastor Philip Herman became the director of the center in September of 2022. Philip has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and has been at this center since it opened and the previous summer program. Abigail Herman is now the listed director.

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.

Room Observations: The rooms were observed in ratio on 7/12/24; the center had been out of ratio when observed after a complaint response. The center is not using a specific curriculum, lesson plans are posted with themes that rotate by the week. The director reported working to obtain funding to hire educated teachers for preschool and is talking to the Des Moines school district about the SWVPP. There are handwashing posters hung. There is ready access to restrooms that are clean and had the necessary toiletries available. Staff in each classroom were observed to interact and be responsive to the children. Classrooms were well-stocked with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys/activities. There were staff-lead activities and some independent activities observed. Staff maintained structure in the rooms. Review of sanitation procedures was discussed and a review with CCR&R and/or nurse consultant was recommended in 9/2023.

During the visit on 7/12/24: staff in the one year old room specifically were observed during transition time; of changing and readying for rest period, during which no staff or children washed their hands after diaper changes. Discussion took place with staff regarding this concern. The center will need to have review the proper hygiene procedures; this to include information on required handwashing times; procedure and how to sanitize/properly clean changing table; which was also observed a significant debris upon it. A corrective action plan outlined the need for the center to have consultation with a Child Care Nurse Consultant to assist staff in learning proper handwashing/changing/sanitizing and cleaning methods along with the proper mixture of chemicals to effectively complete sanitization. The changing mat in the 1 year old room was

observed to be tattered and worn needing replacement by the CCNC on 8/2/24.

Nutrition practices: There is an on-site kitchen that was clean and organized. The menus were previously not available; during the 7/12/24 visit; Director Abigail Herman provided a months rotation of menu. Kitchen staff indicated on previous visit that not all menu items are available and sometimes the menu changes daily. On 7/12/24; staff did not indicate a need for menu items or documented substitutions. . Dedicated kitchen staff are new and working on classes to learn CACFP guidelines; however more training on this is needed. Refrigeration and dry storage were to requirements--sealed containers/required temperatures. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and served family-style by staff in the classrooms.

Health and safety: Medication is stored in the kitchen, only accessible to staff. Handwashing signs are posted throughout the program areas. On previous visits were not fire/tornado emergency plans posted so discussion with with Pastor Phillip and Director Abigail along with OSS took place to draw the emergency plans and to get them posted as soon as possible. During the 7/12/24 visit, emergency plans were posted as required.
Radon testing was completed in April of 2023 and all rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff. There are first aid kits in the center and discussion took place with regard to using a "fanny pack" with emergency information and some first aide items for outside play times. The center has carbon monoxide detectors. The center provided receipts for having had a professional heating, cooling and ventilation inspection.

Playground: The playground is enclosed by chain-link fencing. The area is divided by ages. There are play structures for younger children and older children. There is a concern with the swings and the less than six feet of safety surfacing cushion. The playground is surfaced wood chips, and cement/grass. There is a combination of shade structure and natural shading. Several play structures are new to the center and were in good repair. This playground was observed 9/2023 and again 1/26/24 ,however was snow-covered on 1/26/24. The playground was observed to be in good repair on 7/12/24.

Transportation/Field trips--there is transportation provided by staff to and from school 12 or 15 passenger vans daily. The center keeps emergency contact information/lists of children in each van.

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporting; center provisional license, consultant contact, and non-smoking signs were posted. Emergency plans needed posted on the parent board as well.

Twelve staff files were reviewed: As of 7/12/24: 3 missing employee/volunteer/substitute statement; three files were missing national (fingerprint) background checks with one having been submitted, without returned results for several months (records indicate that this persons finger print submissions have been returned twice for non-readable); two staff missing universal precautions, 3 staff missing mandatory reporter training, one staff missing a physical form and several that had been provided after employment and two staff needing to complete essentials training.
>As a part of a correction action plan active on 7/22/24, all missing information was subsequently provided prior to 8/15/24

Twelve child files were reviewed; with seven files missing a physical.
>As a part of corrective action; the director provided updated physicals.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center offers a much needed childcare service to families in the community.

The center not only provides for the care of children, but also has a desire to assist the family as a whole as well by providing resources to families. The center has a food pantry where parents can take home food when dropping off or picking up their child, both dry storage food and fresh food, as well as refrigerated food.

The center plans on applying for a IQ4K rating and plans on being on the food program.

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

109.6(5)b: Signed statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters. As of 8/15/24, this aspect of operation has been brought to standard.

109.6(5)c: Undergo record check process if:It is included in meeting the required child/staff ratio. Has direct responsibility for a child or children. Has access to child or children when no other staff is present. As of 8/15/24 this aspect of operation has been brought to standard.

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional

history that occurs. As of 8/15/24 this aspect has been brought to standard.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 3
> As of 8/15/24 this aspect has been brought to standard.

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: 5
> As of 8/15/24 this aspect has been brought to standard

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: 7
> As of 8/15/24 this aspect has been brought to standard

109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center.Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After diapering a child.Before leaving the rest room either with a child or by themselves.Before and after administering nonemergency first aid if gloves are not worn.After handling animals or cleaning cages.
>Specific training and instruction was provided by a professional child care nurse consultant for staff on 8/2/24 on site.

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
>Specific training and instruction was provided by a professional child care nurse consultant for staff on 8/2/24 on site.

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.
>Specific training and instruction was provided by a professional child care nurse consultant for staff on 8/2/24 on site. The CCNC observed the need for improvement with a disintegrating changing pad and the need for staff to ensure waste/diapers are proper disposed out of the reach of children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center is being issued full-licensure 8-1-24 through 2-1-26; with an annual inspection to reoccur in JANUARY, 2025. During the last visit to the center; it was realized several staff will need to re-certify CPR/First Aide prior to the end of November. 2024 or risk being out of licensure compliance again.

This center will need to maintain timely completion of required staff trainings/background checks to maintain licensure status. Failure to maintain minimum standards for staff training and background checks could result in license revocation.

This center will need to maintain up-to-date child records to maintain active licensure. Failure to maintain required information in child records could result in license revocation.

This center was provided with a "Director's Checklist" to assist in preparing for licensure compliance visits.

It is HIGHLY recommended this center reach out to CCR&R for assistance with developing and implementing staff training, timely background checks and repeated checks; and required documentation for the children attending this center.

The center completed their preparedness plan on 4/26/23.

Radon testing was completed in April of 2023 and all rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

Jenny, CCR&R consultant for the center; and is able to continue to be available for support, instruction and resources.

*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.