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

Name of Center: Families Forward Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 29 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22822

Street: 1203 Hartford AVE **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50315 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3001 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312

Director's Name: Ayanna Oakley **Phone Number:** 515-244-2268

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tyesha Wright **E-Mail:** Ayanna@familiesforward.org

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-05-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-05-2024

Comments :

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	10	32		58
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

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

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 05-29-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Bidwell Riverside Child Development Center has been in operation since 1983. The center is located within a single standing building that has a secured parent entrance. The center serves children ages two through five years. Ayanna Oakley is the director. Ayanna started as director in October 2023. She has an Associates degree in Social Work. Ayanna has been employed at the daycare since 2014. Tyesha Wright is the assistant director. She's been employed at the daycare for several years.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Class schedules and lesson plans are in place at classroom doors. The center also has a monthly newsletter. Each classroom has developmentally appropriate furnishings, supplies and toys. Classrooms have defined interest centers. Children's artwork is displayed in each classroom.

Ayanna and Tyesha assisted with today's visit. The Explorer (2's) had eight children present. Two staff were working in this class. The Little Learners (2/3's) had eight children in attendance. Three staff were working with this group. The Super Heroes (Junior PreK) isn't open at this time. The Wise Owls (Pre K) had eight children present. Two staff were working in this classroom. Children were observed on the playground and in the classrooms. Children were involved in large motor play activities on the playground. Children were observed preparing for lunch, transition times, lunch time and child directed activities.

The center has a full kitchen. There is a cook on staff. The center participates in the federal food program. The menu is on a weekly rotation. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Lunch served today was beef stroganoff, mixed vegetables, apples or apple sauce and milk.

The center has two playgrounds areas. There is rubber tile and poured rubber tile for surfacing. The center completes monthly playground checks.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center participates in the United Way Women's Empowerment Program. This program provides a great deal of professional and financial support to participating centers. The center participates in IQ4K. The center has a one star rating. Classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate supplies and furnishings.

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.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

The center added infant care in May 2025. Capacity for the center is 58.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515)725-2635:email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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