Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Beginning Memories Preschool

Provider No.: 39778

Address: 2102 Avenue E, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Memory Bleth

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 4025784477

E-Mail: memorybleth@msn.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/14/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/12/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		6	25	6	37
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Beginning Memories Preschool on 9/14/26. Memory Bleth is the director. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. She has worked with children for over 20 years. The center is a one-story brick building located in a residential neighborhood. The property is fenced. The Beginning Memories Preschool Philosophy: "It is our belief that parents are the child's first and foremost important teachers. At Beginning Memories, we encourage families to become involved in all aspects of their child's learning process. The focus in our classroom is to facilitate each child's development in a process oriented, language rich environment where children can make choices and act on them. The program is an all-inclusive model servicing children all along the development continuum, facilitating the development of friendship, social interaction and the celebration of diversity." Preschool and child care services are offered to children between three and five years old. There are eight children enrolled. I met with Memory during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There were eight children and one staff present. The children were resting. Memory said the children bring two blankets from home for their cots. They are washed every week unless a child is sick then they are washed more often. Memory had excellent interactions with the children. She was positive and attentive to the children's needs as she tried to get them to sleep. Daily activities are provided and the program takes some field trips during the summer. They visit the pumpkin patch in the fall. During the school year they have weekly themed lesson plans/activities. The daily schedule was posted. Memory creates her own lesson plans. Many programs visit the center such as a magician, Children's Museum, etc. During the summer they go to a local swimming pool. Memory has worked with Child Care Resource & Referral. Memory rotates toys monthly. The mandatory reporter sign and a list of emergency numbers were not posted. I provided Memory with the mandatory reporter sign and discussed what should be on the emergency list of phone numbers. I emailed Memory some examples on 9/25/26.

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Nutrition:
The center provides two snacks per day and the children bring their lunch. The lunches are stored in the refrigerator. Memory reported that they follow the CACFP guidelines even though they are not on the federal food program. Memory had snack menus. There were thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer although the temperature in the freezer was not correct. As food should not be allowed to freeze, the temperature in all storage areas of the refrigerator should ideally be between 33 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Freezer sections should maintain food at a temperature of 0 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Please monitor the refrigerator and freezer regularly to make sure they are maintained at the optimal temperatures.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills were practiced and documented. Memory stated she will follow the proper medication procedures if needed. An annual fuel burning inspection was done in April 2025. She has another one scheduled for 9/23/26; however, Memory has not provided me with documentation that this has been completed. There is not a current radon test; however, Memory has the radon testing kit. She just needs to complete it. We discussed the proper procedures for doing the radon test. Please complete radon testing and then refer to your handbook for information on the testing frequency requirements. Bleach water is used for sanitizing. Please make sure you follow the three-bottle procedure: 1. Soap and water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing. You need to refer to your specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions. If the directions aren't on the bottle, you need to go to the website listed on the bottle for mixing instructions. Memory reported that the bleach water is mixed daily. Memory was interested in other options besides bleach water that don’t require mixing. I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to discuss options with her.

Playground:
There is a grassy area on the side of the building. There is one piece of playground equipment with two swings, a slide, and a climbing wall. Previously it was reported that more surfacing was needed. Memory reported she added more mulch in 2025. The center did not appear to have enough fall surfacing and appears to require additional fall surfacing to be put on the play area. I talked with Memory about the Growing Iowa grant. Please refer to the Handbook for Public Playground Safety put out by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for information on surfacing, fall zone, and equipment. The Child Care Nurse Consultant can also discuss fall surfacing with Memory. Monthly playground safety inspections were completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation. The center takes walking field trips.

Administrative records:
Memory’s staff file was reviewed. Memory is missing the required eight annual professional development hours. Three children’s files were read. Two were missing the name and number of a dentist, one was missing the annual permission form as to who is allowed to pick up the child, and one was missing the permission for field trips and non-center activities.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Memory has worked in child care for over 20 years and she has been in her child care center since 2011. Memory was organized. She is very enthusiastic and proud of her center. She is creative and has fun hands-on learning experiences for the children. The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment. Memory has excellent interactions with the children. The center has new faucets and a new shed. Memory identified their strengths at as the center has a home-like feel, she takes pride in her curriculum, and the children are ready for kindergarten after leaving her center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Memory is missing the required eight annual professional development hours.

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109.9(2)d: 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. Three children's files were read. Two were missing the name and number of a dentist, one was missing the annual permission form as to who is allowed to pick up the child, and one was missing the permission for field trips and non-center activities.

109.11(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted. Memory has not conducted radon testing. Radon testing has not been completed; however, Memory has the radon testing kits.

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. An annual fuel burning inspection was done in April 2025. She has another one scheduled for 9/23/26; however, Memory has not provided me with documentation that this was completed.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full licensing is recommended for 9/1/26 to 9/1/28.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Memory her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Memory is the only staff member working with the children. If she is frustrated, she will walk away to the entry way; however, she does not have time to do that and she is the only staff member. Memory doesn't have any specific training related to behavior management.

I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to work with Memory on different options for sanitizing and disinfecting as well as talking about the fall surfacing.

Date: 09/25/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.