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

Name of Center: As We Grow Childcare and Preschool **Enrollment:** 97 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49802

Street: 10015 NW 61st AVE **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 10015 NW 61st AVE, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Amanda Fowles **Phone Number:** 515-414-6458

On-Site Supervisor(s): Angela Houghman **E-Mail:** director@aswegrow-childcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-18-2024

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:** 05-14-2024

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

Date Inspected: 07-09-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. The director stated the fire inspector has recently visit the center, however no documentation had been provided.

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	28	25	42	17	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-20-2024

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 was completed 6-18-24. The director and assistant director were present throughout the visit.

As We Grow Childcare and Preschool has been operating since 2018 in Johnston, IA. They provide traditional child care for children age 6 weeks to age 12, 6:45 AM to 5:50 PM Monday through Friday year round. The building is solely occupied by the daycare as the building was designed for this function. The owner and Director is Amanda Fowles. Amanda has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Amanda has prior experience as a preschool teacher and owned her own in-home registered daycare for 13 years. Amanda meets qualifications to be Director. Angela Houghman is the Assistant Director and has worked at this center since 2020. She meets the criteria to for this position.

Room Observation/Activities: The center uses their own curriculum based on the Creative Curriculum. The classrooms use themes and there are weekly lesson plans based on weekly themes which are posted in the rooms and on the application (Bright Wheel) for parents. The staff were in ratio. The rooms offer a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and play centers. Staff maintain good structure in the rooms. Rooms were clean and nicely organized. Staff were observed to have positive and nurturing interacting with the children. Discussion took place regarding the need to wash/sanitize under changing mats on the changing tables. There is good access to toilets that were clean and well stocked with toiletries.

Nutritional Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated cook--Jason who was in the kitchen preparing meals during the visit. Menus are crafted by the director, in a four week seasonal rotation that appear in line with CACFP guidelines. The kitchen and food storage were very organized and clean. Menus were posted. Meals and snack are served family-style in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: Medication is kept secure. Discussion took place with regard to limiting medication administration based on safety. There were first aid kits in the rooms. Tornado and Fire emergency exit plans were posted in the rooms and emergency drills were documented to have been completed as required. Radon testing was completed in 2023; all under 4.0. HVAC is maintained/inspected professionally; and the bill had not yet been provided to the center for this year's check. There are two carbon monoxide detectors at the center.

Playground: The playground offers play equipment; shade structures and safety surfacing of wood chips. The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing. The equipment and playground was observed in good repair.

Transportation:
This center does not provide transportation. The center does offer cooperation with the local school buses for before/after school.

Administrative Review: The center was observed to have mandatory reporter, center handbook, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking posted in conspicuous areas. A new consultant contact sheet was sent to the director. Five staff files were reviewed; with one employee needing updated CPR/First Aid, one needing updated SING (Iowa

Background checks) and an employee needing a physical on file--which the director indicated the employee had scheduled an appointment the following week.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has been set up with good centers and good flow through the building.

The staff in this program maintained good structure in the rooms; and were providing positive and nurturing responses to the children.

The center has higher enrollment.

The center has a Facebook page as well as a website.

The center has a secure entrance that is located adjacent to the director's office that incorporates additional monitoring.

The center has video cameras in every room that record.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. *one file reviewed needed repeat SING (Iowa) Checks

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: 1
*one file reviewed indicated that staff needed to update CPR/First Aid training

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in May 2023, with all rooms tested below the recommended levels. Four of eight rooms were tested; it it recommended that all rooms be tested.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The director will ensure a review of all staff files occurs and updates occur as required by Iowa Law, at least yearly.

A full two year license in 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.