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

Name of Center: Bobcat Academy **Enrollment:** 165 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47667

Street: 1910 S Center St **City:** Marshalltown Iowa **Zip** 50158 **County:** Marshall

Mailing Address: 1910 S Center ST, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Ashley Johnson/Amber Young **Phone Number:** 641-328-1921

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** ashley@bobcatacademy.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-07-2022

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

Date Inspected: 11-10-2022

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: 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	40	35	79	30	184
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-15-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 11-7-23. Both Co-directors/Co-Owners were present through the entire visit.

Bobcat Academy opened for business on August 15, 2016. The co-owners and directors are Ashley Johnson and Amber Young, who both meet the requirements to be directors. They both have taught in school systems, and both have their Master's Degree. Ashley has a Master's of Education and Amber has her Master's in Special Education. They both also have their Early Childhood Endorsement.

This center is open from 7:00 am-5:00 pm. They provide year round care. They serve children from infant age up through fourth grade.
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/activities: This center offers traditional full-time daycare along with the option of pre-school programing for ages 2-5. There are 10 classrooms and include two additional experience rooms which are designed to offer other opportunities to learn through play and to use imaginations. There is a river boat, a kitchen, a post office, a doctor or vet office, a train station, a house, a building station, and a few different musical pieces. There is also an indoor gym for large motor play. . This center has well-stocked, and nicely arranged activities and centers. The rooms were clean and organized to provide good supervision. Rooms were in ratio and observed during resting times. Discussion took place with regard to the need to increase the lighting to a safe level in all rooms. Lighting should be such that the children can be heard and observed from different areas of the classroom by staff, such as being able to monitor that children are not wrapped in bedding, are breathing, not in distress etc. Staff were consistently observed to have interactive/nurturing interactions with the children. Reference Iowa Administrative Code 441-109.12 (5)(6). .

Nutrition Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen that was very tidy and organized with menus posted. Menus rotate and are in-line with CACFP guidelines. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and served family style in the classrooms by staff.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored in classrooms, securely and only accessible by staff. There are first aid kits in each room. Emergency/disaster plans were posted. Fire/Tornado drills were documented to have been completed monthly. Radon testing had been sent and was pending when this visit took place. Ashley Johnson provided email confirmation that the test results were received 11/9/23 and all rooms under the 4.0 cutoff. Heating and Cooling was checked for seasonal inspection 10/2023. There are two carbon monoxide detectors in the center. This center is very clean and organized.

Transportation: This center provides transportation for field trips and before/after school with vans (15-passenger) or contracts with a church to utilize church buses and a professional driver.

Playground-There is an indoor playground that was in use and in good condition. The outdoor playground is enclosed with composite privacy fencing; surfaced with wood chips. There are small play structures and the center has secured additional play structures which they are fundraising to secure the funding necessary for moving the equipment and reassembly.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, consultant contact, handbook accessibility, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs are posted. Seven child files were reviewed, containing all required information. Five Employee files were reviewed with one requiring updated mandatory reporter training. This center has a well-established policy that is often reviewed/updated as needed by the co-owners who are also the co-directors.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is working for level 3 in IQ4K (quality rating)

The owners/directors have a strong background in the field of education.

The staff is composed of licensed and experienced teachers who also share the director's vision of early childhood education. The staff are very professional and invested in the center. Several staff at the center have either a two year degree or a four year degree, many in early education. Many staff at this center have a Bachelor's degree.

The center has a strong core of staff that have been with the center since the center opened. There are nine staff that have worked at this center since they opened in 2016.

Ashley and Amber are invested in providing a quality center for the children and families in the community.

The center conducts several field trips in the community and is very involved in the community.

The center has a newsletter that is sent out once a month. The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance.

The children who attend preschool at this center are ready and prepared for Kindergarten.

The center receives positive feedback from parents.

The center uses the Bright Wheel app which assists in daily and in the moment updates and communication with parents.

Enrollment remains high and steady, there is a wait-list for some ages.

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

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
Staff will be repeating Mandatory reporter training as soon as possible.

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.

Per 109.12.(5)(6) sufficient lighting to ensure opportunity to safely monitor the children by being able observe them without obstruction such as dim lights. This would include the ability to monitor a child is breathing; not in distress or tangled in bedding or such. Discussion took place that lighting would be increased for this reason.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center was observed to be clean, organized and to offer a family-like atmosphere in the structure of their building and classrooms which the center refers to as "neighborhoods".

Staff were engaged and actively supervising the children in their care while maintaining good structure in their room. Staff were observed to work well with one-another.

*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.