



Dawson-Boyd Blackjack Babies

Dawson, MN

Established

May 6th, 2019

Background & Basic Info

Looking for ways to combat the child care shortage in Dawson, Johnson Memorial Health Services (JMHS) started working with First Children's Finance through the "Rural Child Care Innovation Program" grant that they received in May 2017. Through this work, JMHS gathered area information on child care needs. A core team was formed which included JMHS staff, Dawson-Boyd School District staff, and city and county officials.

The core team held a Dawson-Boyd Rural Child Care Innovation Program Town Hall meeting which various community members, existing child care providers, faith-based leaders, and business owners were invited to.

After working with the State of Minnesota, they identified an option to work with the existing Dawson-Boyd Community education program under the Dawson-Boyd School umbrella. Blackjack Babies is operated by the Dawson-Boyd School District. The child care center is housed in the Johnson Memorial Health Services Care Center.

Building

Johnson Memorial Health Services (JMHS) owns the space that Blackjack Babies utilizes. They do not charge the Dawson-Boyd School District rent of the 525 square foot space in the Johnson Memorial Care Center.

Pick up and drop off for Blackjack Babies is at the JMHS Care Center.



1282 Walnut Street
Dawson, MN



(320) 312-2130



taafedt@dwby.k12.mn.us
bspencer@jmhsmn.org



<https://sites.google.com/dwby.k12.mn.us/isd378/comm-ed/blackjack-babies>



Primary Contacts:
Tony Aafedt, *Director*
Bobbie Jo Spencer,
Coordinator



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Schedule

Blackjack Babies is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with the exception of major holidays.

Food

Children enrolled are served breakfast, lunch, and snacks that are paid for by the Dawson-Boyd School District. Meals are prepared at the school’s kitchen and Blackjack Babies staff drive to the school to pick the meals up and return to the center to serve them to the children.



Enrollment & Fees

Enrollment

Blackjack Babies is at max capacity with 15 children currently enrolled. They are licensed through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Age Range	Number of Children License Allows	Number of Children Enrolled
Infant 6 weeks – 16 months	8	8
Toddler 16 months – 33 months	7	7
Total	15	15

Fees

Age	4/5 days a week	3 days a week	Drop-in
Infants 6 weeks-15 months	\$165	\$110	\$40/day
Toddlers 16-33 months	\$155	\$100	\$40/day

Staff

Dawson-Boyd School District employs all Blackjack Babies staff. They currently have four full-time employees and three part-time employees. They haven’t had had any challenges attracting and retaining employees. As the child waitlist continues to grow, they anticipate the need for more staff in the future.

Currently Employed	Position	Starting Hourly Pay
1	Coordinator/Toddler Lead Teacher	\$14.00
1	Infant Lead Teacher	\$12.50
4	Aids (full-time and part-time)	\$11.69

There is also one community education director that serves as a liaison between the school and JMHS.

Financing

Start Up Costs

The following was covered by a \$15,000 grant from Lac qui Parle County:

- First 3 months of infant/toddler Coordinator & JMHS Admin
- License fee and back ground checks
- Fire marshal
- Phones, computer, printer, Brightwheel Software
- equipment



A \$18,000 grant from the Southwest Initiative Foundation covered the start up supplies needed.

JMHS contributed the space for the child care center and the following in-kind contributions totaling \$15,440:

- annual laundry/housekeeping/maintenance
- annual utilities
- annual financial services
- building inspection
- use of commercial kitchen & enclosed outdoor space
- Annual CFO/HR managers oversight
- Annual decrease in Medicare reimbursement-daycare nonallowable cost

Current Operating Budget – 2019/2020 Fiscal Year

Revenue	Amount
Food Assistance Income	\$2,111.78
Child Care Fees	\$72,010.00
Total	\$74,121.78
Expenses	Amount
Salaries	\$56,850.00
Benefits	\$8,937.60
Payroll Expenses	\$4,349.03
Supplies	\$1,660.00
Food	\$5,707.50
Other	\$50.00
Training	\$400.00
Total	\$77,954.13
Loss	\$3,382.35

Loans & Grants

In Blackjack Babies first year of operation, they have received a \$15,000 grant from Lac qui Parle County and a \$18,000 grant from the Southwest Initiative Foundation.

Other Sources

Blackjack Babies has not conducted any fundraisers but are looking forward to conduct some in the near future.

Challenges and Successes

Challenges

The biggest challenge for Blackjack Babies has been the limited amount of space. They have a long waiting list but are unable to accept more children because of the space restrictions.

Another challenge deals with the coordination between JMHS and the Dawson-Boyd School District. For example, since the school does not own the space, they have very limited influence on building-related changes. Likewise, JMHS does not have as much input on employee issues—even though the employees work in the JMHS facilities, they report to the school. The two parties hold regular meetings to cover such issues.



Successes

Since the childcare center is located within the Johnson Memorial Care Center, a program has developed that allows residents at the nursing home and assisted living to have supervised access to the infants and toddlers. This positive engagement and interaction has been beneficial for both parties involved.