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

Name of Center: Clover Patch Day Care **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 45179

Street: 802 Main St **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 615 Washington St, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jon Wiebers **Phone Number:** 319-277-6781

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cathy Hagarty **E-Mail:** jwiebers@cfcatholicschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-06-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 11-30-2021

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.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	60	0	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 04-13-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/06/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Clover Patch Daycare in Cedar Falls. I met with Cathy Hagarty, the on-site supervisor. She has an AA in an unrelated field. I also met with Jon Wiebers, the director and principal at St. Patrick Catholic School. Mr. Wiebers started with the program in August 2022. He has a master's degree in Educational Administration. Mr. Wiebers was previously the director of two preschool programs where he was the superintendent of the schools. The program employs two primary childcare staff members and three preschool staff members. They also have college students who are childcare staff members. This program had been operating under the Department of Education and became licensed under the Department of Human Services in May 2015.

The center is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves preschool children. There is a preschool class for three-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-11:00 am. There is a preschool class for older three-year-olds and four-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:15-11:00 am. There is a program for four and five-year-old Pre-K children on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:15-3:05 pm. There are currently 49 children enrolled. Children must be enrolled in preschool to attend the daycare program. The program only operates during the school year.

The program primarily operates out of two rooms. One room serves the preschool classes, and one room is for childcare. They also have a room to use for childcare overflow and it also has centers and gross motor activities when they cannot go outside. Children also nap in this room on Wednesdays. An inspection of each room was provided. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the preschool class.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, computers, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

Carrie Zehentner is the lead teacher in the preschool room. Ms. Zehentner has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. Kim Herbst is the assistant in the preschool class. Meagan Slee is an additional assistant in the preschool room on Tuesday and Thursday and she also works in the childcare room. Ms. Hagarty and Kristin Olmstead are the primary staff members in the daycare room. Ms. Hagarty is training Ms. Slee to take over as the on-site supervisor of the program.

There is one sink in the preschool room. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are two bathrooms for use by the children on the north side of the program. There is one toilet and one sink in each bathroom and handwashing procedures were posted in each location. There is a bathroom in the daycare room that has one toilet, and one sink and procedures were posted. There is also a staff bathroom.

Mats are used to nap and were stored appropriately.

The childcare program provides lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Lunch is provided by St. Patrick Catholic School and delivered to the program. The school is part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The childcare/preschool program are not part of CACFP. Lunch menus and snack menus were posted. Children have the option to bring cold lunches from home as well. Lunch is delivered already dished out for the children in separate containers. The children can eat breakfast at the Circle of Care program at St. Patrick's Catholic School prior to being transported to Clover Patch Day Care.

The program provides a snack to the morning and afternoon preschool class. Snack calendars were available to review. There is a refrigerator and a milk cooler on site and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Dishes are sent back to St. Patrick Catholic School to be put through the dishwasher. The kitchen was observed to be clean and well maintained.

The program uses Clean by Peroxy All Purpose Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner in place of soap and water. They are using R-T-U Quaternary FCS Sanitizer on the food tables. They then use disinfecting wipes to sanitize toys and tables in the classrooms. Please note the disinfecting wipes do require a portable water rinse on food tables.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans and complete the GOLD assessments on the children. Ms. Zehentner uses Scholastic charts to teach the alphabet, numbers and the months of the year. The program is Christian based and Ms. Zehentner uses God Made Me and A Child's First Bible for the religious curriculum. Parent conferences are offered in the spring for the three-year-old children and in the fall and spring for the four and five-year-old children. The daycare portion of the program does not develop lesson plans because they only care for the children who are in preschool, so the children receive the necessary educational activities during that time. Daycare is primarily free play and crafts. A lesson plan was available for review in the preschool room. The length of the study varies depending on the topic and the children's interest level.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each room. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program. A daily schedule was posted in both rooms.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in March 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector is in the daycare room on the cubbies and in the entrance of the preschool room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/30/21.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance of the daycare and inside the entrance near the preschool cubbies. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has a fenced in playground area. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is a concrete area with a basketball hoop. A bench and picnic table are available for the children to rest.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. They were in great condition. I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have great teamwork and great interaction with the children. Staff members were enthusiastic and interacted with the children at their level. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations and they offered the children choices. Staff members were observed sitting with the children and reading to them. They included the children in the stories by asking them questions. Staff members sat with the children while they worked on arts and crafts and played at various centers. Staff members provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. They talked with the children about using their words to solve problems. Staff members were flexible with their schedules to meet the needs of the children. The children were excited about learning about the Lenten journey.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mr. Wiebers states the Clover Patch program is stable because of Ms. Hagarty and Ms. Olmstead. Ms. Hagarty is retiring at the end of this school year, and she is training a new person for the position.

Mr. Wiebers states they have a positive parent response to the program. Parents appreciate that the children receive preschool and childcare in the same location and the children do not need to leave the space.

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 1, which expires on 03/31/24.

The children who receive morning childcare at the Circle of Care program at St. Patrick's Catholic School are bussed over to the childcare program. Two staff members from the childcare program ride to the bus over with the children.

Ms. Hagarty states they have great families who are very involved with the program.

Ms. Hagarty states she is training Ms. Slee to take over the program once she retires at the end of the school year and she thinks she will be terrific.

Ms. Zehentner states they provide a family-like atmosphere, and they want the children to love coming to school each day. She states they started the school year by teaching the children the routines so they would feel comfortable before jumping into the lessons.

Ms. Zehentner states they work hard to make all the children feel important. She states the children have been great at learning what belongs to them and their special spot in the program.

Ms. Hagerty states they provide free play, social interaction and academics.

The preschool program and the childcare program work well together and assist each other as needed.

The program provides vision screenings through the Lion's Club and hearing screenings through AEA. Central Rivers AEA visits the classroom to work with children who have identified needs.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.