Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: College Community ECC-Prairie Crest
Provider No.: 24459

Address: 301 76th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

County: Linn

Director's Name: Kathleen "Kathy" Schulte
On-Site Supervisor: Jaylin McKinney

Phone Number: 3198485296
E-Mail: kschulte@crprairie.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/24/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/19/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation

Comments: Accredited +
College Community Prairie Crest and Ridge
Program ID: 728389
Program Valid Dates: 6/1/2022 to 6/1/2027
In operation since: 7/1/1984

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			30	120	150
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

College Community Early Childhood Center (CCECC) has been in operation since 1984 expanding to offer several childcare and preschool opportunities throughout the College Community School District as well as community. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to CCECC - Prairie Crest is located inside Prairie Crest Elementary School. The CCECC - Prairie Crest license includes childcare for school-age children (primarily located in the school cafeteria) outside of school hours and childcare for preschool-age children (primary rooms #135 M all day with T-F pm only and #137 M-F all day). During the summer, some full days of emergency closing, and some breaks, this program has the ability to combine with other CCECC locations. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 38 on 3/24/2026.

Multi-site executive director Kathleen "Kathy" Schulte has a MA degree in early childhood elementary education. Ms. Schulte has a plethora of experience working with children including during her work as a school principal and early childhood teacher. Ms. Schulte continues to be a mentor to other programs throughout the community and is part of the College Community School District's safety team. Multi-site school-age coordinator is Whitney Hinrichs. Ms. Hinrichs has experience working with children and participates in professional development. Specific on- site supervisor (OSS) is Jaylin McKinney. Ms. McKinney has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 3/24/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in the school cafeteria, room #135 and room #137. The program has some access to the school gymnasium and school outdoor play areas. Program materials are organized in cabinets and shelves for ease of use. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. There is an on-site school kitchen which is regularly inspected. Meals are prepared and offered through the school lunch program. CCECC - Prairie Crest provides all snack foods and has areas for food storage. On 3/24/2026, areas of study included exercise. Activities observed included large gross motor play outdoors and nap time

preparations with book reading. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions were also observed to go smoothly and included clean-up procedures and restroom/drink breaks. Face-to-name attendance was observed to be happening. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as build cognitive skills, strengthen emotional intelligence, enhance physical coordination, encourage the use of social graces, and establish a lifelong joy of learning. On 3/24/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive behavior interventions when needed and engaged in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

According to the family handbook the mission of CCECC is "...Guided by high expectations, partnerships with our schools and families, and extensive knowledge of child development, Early Learning Staff provide a broad range of educational opportunities that enable students to enter Elementary School with the skills necessary to ensure quality learning today for tomorrow."

CCECC has the following website for families and the community to access information about their programs: https://www.crprairie.org/.

CCECC - Prairie Crest has achieved and maintained NAEYC accreditation plus. In fall 2022, the College Community School District is one of only eight school districts across the country recognized as a “Lighthouse System” by AASA, The School Superintendents Association. College Community was recognized in the area of: Redesign for Early Learning. College Community Schools received special recognition for Strength in Early Learning Partnerships in Service for Highly Diverse Community.

CCECC is non-profit and operates under a Board of Directors. As of 3/24/2026, ownership and management of CCECC have remained consistent. The seasoned management team includes multi-site executive early childhood principal-director Ms. Schulte, assistant director Erin Hill, administrative assistant Jenna Langhurst, multi-site school-age coordinator Whitney Hinrichs, and OSS. CCECC management has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures. There continues to be collaboration among all CCECC programs for the sharing of materials (e.g. new mobile rotating Experiential Learning concepts), curriculum, ideas, planning, new staff orientation, behavior strategies, joys, challenges and professional development trainings. Management acknowledged having much gratitude for all their employees. Management talked about continuing to encourage staff to pursue professional goals. Management discussed continued bonuses, vacation/sick buy-back opportunities, health/wellness benefits, and uniquely created warm areas for daily staff breaks/lunch are all part of the program's operations to support, acknowledge, reward and celebrate the hard work staff do. Management also continues to display their appreciation through staff shout-outs and special food days or luncheons with snacks.

On 3/24/2026, CCECC - Prairie Crest was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining family-program information centers, offering regular newsletters, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Parents are invited to be part of various program-sponsored committees as well as participate in regular surveys encouraging program feedback. CCECC curriculum is designed to help children become lifelong learners. Since the last review, Experiential Learning (e.g. rotating mobile in-depth stations) has been introduced into the preschool-age curriculum. Experiential learning builds on play-based learning by adding intentional reflection and real-world exploration, connecting sensory experiences, outdoor activities, and hands-on tasks to cognitive and social development. Curriculum also continues to incorporate the Iowa Early Learning Standards, Creative Curriculum, Everyday Math Enrichment, Second Step, Jolly Phonics, Heggerty Phonics Awareness, Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports, SPARK after-school, Mind Works and homework assistance. Curriculum is additionally enriched by off-site field trips, guest speakers, theme days, seasonal celebrations, and optional experiences (e.g. Daytime Dancers, Little Sports, running club, lending book library, Book Fairs). Management discussed continued curriculum growth particularly within the newly established Experiential Learning.

CCECC - Prairie Crest continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. There is an AED on-site. Cleaning checklists and reminders were observed in various areas. On 3/24/2026 and 4/8/2026, management and staff discussed how they continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Management and staff also talked about having much continued support from the school board, board of directors and

school district (e.g. school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team) as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs. CCECC management continues presents an annual report to the school board noting accomplishments.

All CCECC childcare programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. CCECC sites have successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please add a thermometer to the mini combined refrigerator and freezer in room #135.

The jack-and-jill style child restroom shared between rooms preschool-age (age 3-5yo) rooms #135 and #137 has two open toilets with only a short stall partition between the toilets and no doors. Given the ages of children using this restroom, licensing strongly recommends curtains or full stall doors to increase privacy around each toilet.

Please forward the annual all fuel burning appliance inspection report upon receipt.

Power wash the outdoor playground to ensure it's clean and sanitary. Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

As funding (e.g. Growing Iowa Funds-Grant, ECI funds) becomes available, licensing supports increasing Experiential Learning Curriculum materials and furnishings.

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The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 04/15/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.