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

Name of Center: Safe Care Learning Center LLC **Enrollment:** 79 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48045

Street: 118 S Barclay ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50703 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 118 S Barclay ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

Director's Name: Kimberly Kemp **Phone Number:** 319-233-0889

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kalaziah Bruce **E-Mail:** safecarelearningcenter@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-16-2025

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:** 12-09-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-06-2023

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well X Evening Care X 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	15	14	19	22	70
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-22-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/16/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Safe Care Leaning Center, LLC in Waterloo. I met with Kimberly Kemp, the owner and director of the program. Ms. Kemp has an AAS in business administration and management. She owned a non-registered childcare home for one year and a registered childcare home for seven years. Kalaziah Bruce is the on-site supervisor. She has worked with Ms. Kemp since she had a childcare home. The program currently employs 27 staff members.

Safe Care Learning Center operates out of a free-standing building that was once part of the Quakerdale residential treatment program. The program was given permission to open on 11/01/16. It operates Monday through Sunday for 24 hours each day. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 79 children enrolled.

The program has the following classrooms: infant room, 18 month and two-year-old room, three-year-old room and four-year-old room. There is also a rec room that is used by all the children, but primarily the school-aged children. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in the rooms. 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 centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, writing, science, math, puppets, sensory items, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, woodworking 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.

Cots are used to nap in most rooms. Mats are used for the older infants. Cribs are used for the infants. It is reported that bedding is washed each day and mats are sanitized daily.

This program is open 24 hours each day Monday through Sunday. Please be aware that you must provide separate, private space for school-aged boys and girls for restroom and bedtime activities. Both the female and male room must have supervision while the children sleep.

The program uses The Safeway Curriculum-Scholars Achieving Future Entrepreneurs to develop lesson plans. A lesson plan was available for review in the classrooms being used. The center is also using the Character Counts Curriculum.

There is a phone in the kitchen area and the office and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted near most of the main program doors and outdoor exits. You must post the evacuation diagram near both exits in the Yello Room (two-year-olds) and near both exits in the Red Room (four-year-olds).

Daily schedules were posted in most rooms. Post a daily schedule in the Red Room (four-year-olds).

There is a bathroom on each end of the hallway, and they have two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were

posted in both locations. There is a bathroom in the two-year-old room that has one toilet, one sink and a changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in the infant room with one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. There is one changing table and one sink in the infant room and handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted.

The school-age children are cared for in the rec room area in the mornings prior to school. After school they are cared for at Ms. Kemp's second childcare site, Safe Care Kids Center, which is in a building directly next door.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Remember that because you are open 24 hours each day you must practice separate drills for the night and weekend children so that all children are practicing drills once each month.

The program received playground equipment from the former Expo High School and a closed Waterloo elementary school. They have not had the opportunity to purchase and install fall surfacing, so the equipment is not being used. Once you are using the playground area you must complete monthly playground inspections and have them available for review during licensing visits. Currently, the children play on a grassy area, and they have use of a gym on Quakerdale campus.

A radon test was completed in January 2022 and must be repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. A radon test is one year overdue. Ms. Kemp states they did recently complete radon testing and they are waiting for the results. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the kitchen. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/06/23.

The center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but it does follow the guidelines. Deborah Pendleton is the cook. Kemp has completed the Serv Safe training. The program serves breakfast, lunch, supper and a morning, afternoon and evening snack. The program has a four week rotation of menus. The school-aged children eat in the dining room area and the other children eat in their classrooms. The program posts the menu on Brightwheel for parents.

In the kitchen there is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Allergies were posted. Dishes are washed using the three-step method.

In the infant room there is a refrigerator and a thermometer was present. The parents provide children their formula. The center provides baby food, cereal, snacks, and milk. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed using the three step method.

While I was in the infant room there was a child in the crib with a bottle. This cannot occur.

The center uses Member's Mark sanitizer (a Sam's Club brand) to sanitize the food tables and uses a disinfecting spray to disinfect the changing tables. The Member's Mark sanitizer has a dwell time of one minute. As a reminder the Member's Mark product cannot be used on changing tables.

I discussed the diaper changing procedures with staff members in the infant room and in the two-year-old room. Proper procedures are followed. The changing mat in the infant room is torn and must be replaced.

In the two-year-old room, the staff member said she was using Member's Mark on the changing table. This is only a sanitizer. You must use a disinfectant on the changing table. She did not know the difference between a sanitizer and disinfectant. I recommend discussing diaper changing procedures with staff members so they are being done correctly and they are using the sanitizing and disinfectants correctly. In the four-year-old room they were not using soap and water prior to sanitizing the food tables.

Each room has a first aid kit.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. I sent Ms. Kemp an updated contact poster for myself.

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

I reviewed two staff files. One staff member did not have fingerprint results or a physical. Fingerprints must be completed as soon as possible.

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 work well together. They seem to have a good routine and there are usually extra staff members in the center to fill in or give breaks as needed. I observed children sitting on the floor or at a table with the children and actively engaged in activities. They were nurturing and held children on their laps. They maintained positive conversation. The provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. This program is great at trying to maintain a healthy environment and contacts parents when children have illness symptoms.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Kemp states her staff members want to "grow". She has given them information on obtaining their CDS's. There are five staff members using the TEACH program.

Ms. Kemp states feel comfortable with their children at the center. Staff members connect with the parents and they take an interest in the children.

Ms. Kemp states they have parent conferences in the fall and spring.

Ms. Kemp states staff members engage with the parents. They use the Brightwheel app. She feels technology has really help improve the communication.

Ms. Kemp stats parents give honest feedback about the program on Google docs.

Ms. Kemp states she has staff longevity because the are flexible and work with staff members to work around their needs.

Ms. Kemp states the school-age children take field trips during the summer months. Some of the locations include Lafayette Park, Grout Museum, the library, petting zoo and bowling.

The center is a bus stop for Lowell and Cunningham schools. The center has vans to transport to other schools.

Ms. Kemp states they refer families to Quakerdale for counseling services and they are also a partner with Hope for Healing. They refer to Hope for Healing for many things.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1
One file did not have fingerprint results.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
One file did not have a physical.

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.