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

Name of Center: Families First Child Care and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 86 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51155

Street: 1661 3rd St SW **City:** Waverly Iowa **Zip** 50677 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: 1661 3rd ST SW, Waverly, IA, 50677

Director's Name: Arwen Bendull **Phone Number:** 319-559-2450

On-Site Supervisor(s): Wendy Buchmann **E-Mail:** familiesfirstiowa@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-16-2024

Comments : Compliance 04/02/21

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	24	16	40	25	105
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-05-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/19/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Families First Child Care and Learning Center in Waverly. Beth and Ken Burrow are the owners of the center but they have moved to Des Moines. Mrs. Burrow is the former director for the program. She was a teacher at Waverly-Shell Rock. She is endorsed for TAG instruction for k-12. She has a master's degree. She was the Assistant Director at the Waverly Public Library for several years (including running the Toddler and Preschool Storytimes). Mrs. Burrow has taught at Hawkeye Community College for over 20 years. For 12 years Mr. and Mrs. Burrow have taken trips to an orphanage in Haiti where they were instrumental in setting up a Day Care for their workers. Mary Jo and David Carlson are the interim directors of the center. They have owned and operated several childcare centers in Minnesota. They have a wealth of knowledge regarding childcare. Wendy Buchman is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Buchman has a degree in special education and has been employed in childcare for almost twenty years. She is the lead teacher in the PreK room. Kennedy Kaiser is the staffing supervisor and she makes the staff schedule every week. There are 38 staff members employed by the program.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The program was given permission to open on 04/06/21. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 86 children enrolled. There are resources for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Taylor Physical Therapy to provide services to children with identified needs. They also work with Central Rivers AEA and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room (up to 8-9 months old and crawling), Waddlers (8-9 months until approximately 14 months old), toddlers (14-24 months), two-year-old room, older two and three-year-old room, four and five-year-old room and school-age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in all the classrooms except for the space in the middle of the center. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays are posted. There is an area for circle time in the classrooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Play-Doh, puppets, art, dramatic play, 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. T

The center offers a three-year-old preschool class and a four-year-old preschool class that operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 11:30 am during the school year.

The center uses ABC Jesus Loves Me during the school year to develop lesson plans. This curriculum addresses math, literacy, sensory, art small and gross motor activities. They use the Grow curriculum for the summer. This is a summer camp type of curriculum that. Teachers prepare their own lesson plans. Activities are based on weekly themes. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in the school-age space and in the office. Rooms communicate with one another with walkie talkies. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Please practice fire and tornado drills on separate dates. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2024 and must be repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. A fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. Carbon monoxide detectors are present in the fire alarm system located on the ceiling in each room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/16/24.

The center is using the ProCare app for daily sheets for the children under the age of two. All the rooms are using the app to communicate with the families. Staff members can send the parents pictures and parents receive information in real time. Parents can access the lesson plans through ProCare. The center is going to switch and begin using the Brightwheel app in August 2024.

The center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. Judy Feltz is the cook, but she was not present the day of my visit. The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Meals and snacks are prepared on site. They have use of an air fryer, crock pots, roaster and instant pot. The center uses a four-week rotation of menus. Menus are posted on the ProCare app for parents. The children are served their food by staff members. They will do family style once each week in the PreK room to prepare them for school.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is an industrial refrigerator and freezer, and thermometers were present. There are two dishwashing sinks and an industrial dishwasher. All dishes are returned to the kitchen to be cleaned and sanitized. Disposable products are also used. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

Parents provide everything for the infants up until they start table food. Bottles are made in the classroom and cleaned and sanitized in the room. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and Waddler's room and thermometers were present.

Bleach is being used to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed the teacher prepare the tables for snack and lunch and proper procedures were followed.

I observed and discussed diaper changing procedures in rooms and proper procedures were followed. The mats on the changing tables in the infant room and toddler room are torn and need to be replaced. Once they are torn, they cannot be properly disinfected.

In the preschool room's bathroom in the middle of the center, there were diaper creams in the bins that were not labeled with the child's name. All products should be labeled with the child's name even if they are in bins. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

I observed a purse on the counter in the preschool room in the middle of the center. All staff personal items must be stored out of reach of children. We may keep items in our purses/backpacks that are not safe for children.

In the infant room I observed sleep sacks being used that do not allow the child's arms to freely move. These types of sleep sacks cannot be used. Infants must have their arms free. We also do not allow sleep sacks that are able to swaddle the child.

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 conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has two fenced in playground areas. The area on the east side of the center is for children under the age of three. There is turf for fall surfacing. There is a small piece of climbing equipment, a slide, a caterpillar tunnel, riding toys and a playhouse. There are two tarps for shade. There is also a grassy area. There is a bench for the children to rest.

On the north side of the center is the playground for children three-years-old and older. There is a grassy area and an area with climbing equipment where rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing. There is a teeter totter airplane for the children to play on. There is a bench for the children to rest and a tarp provides shade. There is also a concrete area.

Staff members were fantastic with the children. They have fun and creative activities for the children to help teach them learn. Staff members provide clear and easy to understand directions to the children. Staff members are enthusiastic and provide the children with praise. Staff members provided great reminders for the children to wash their hands. Staff members sang with the children while they washed their hands. They had conversations with the children about sharing. Staff members provide the children with choices and were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members used play to teach the children about colors and counting. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children

enjoyed their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Carlson states the center has hired excellent teachers.

Ms. Carlson states all the staff members work well together and they will move to any room where they are needed.

Ms. Carlson states the parent support they receive is amazing.

Ms. Carlson states the center has their own parade for the Fourth of July. She states it has grown and the community and parents line up along the streets. This year the school dance team and the fire truck joined their parade.

Mr. Carlson states the community support is amazing.

Mr. Carlson states the center has grown because of word of mouth referrals from parents or people who know Beth and Ken Burrow from their work in the school. Parents recommend them.

Mr. and Mrs. Burrow are dedicated to the center. They have moved to Des Moines but continue to be involved with the center and its success. Mary Jo and David Carlson are amazing. They live in Minnesota but have been in Iowa to run the childcare center. The support they show one another , families and staff members are terrific.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlson made corrections while I was present at the center. They provide a safe environment and following licensing standards. They have been a joy to work with.

There are pictures of the staff members outside each of the classrooms with personal information about them. This is a nice touch so parents can get to know staff members.

There are cameras in the entrance and outside of the childcare center. The childcare is in a secured building.

I observed several males working at the center. This is great!!

All the rooms were over staffed above ratio.

The center partners with Taylor Physical Therapy. They come to the center and do universal developmental assessments for all the children (communication, motor skills, sensory, feeding, etc.). They provide physical therapy, speech, occupational therapy and feeding therapy. The staff members complete assessments using a screening tool every six months.

They have a great relationship with Wartburg College.

The center is active on social media. They have a Facebook and Instagram account. They also have a website.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

An administrative change is being made to name Mary Jo and David Carlson as interim directors. They are actively involved in looking for a new director for the program.

In September 2024 an administrative change is being made to name Arwen Bendull as the new director. She started on 09/03/24. Ms. Bendull has a BA in management with an emphasis in music and finance. She has several years of previous experience working in childcare. Mary Jo and Dave Carlson will continue on to train her.

*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.