Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: College Community Early Childhood Center

Provider No.: 50769

Address: 125 Prairie Hill CT SW , Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

County: Linn

Director's Name: Kathleen Schulte

On-Site Supervisor: Erin Hill

Phone Number: 3198485296

E-Mail: kschulte@crprairie.org

HHS Visit Date: 04/08/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/25/2025

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 Heights and ECC
Program ID: 214041
Program Valid Dates: 6/2/2024 to 6/1/2029
In operation since: 8/1/1999

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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	18	18	263	81	380
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

College Community Early Childhood Center (CCECC) programs have 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 the College Community Early Childhood Center (CCECC) which commenced operations in August of 2019. CCECC is located in a building which is part of the College Community School District. CCECC provides early learning programming and childcare to children age infant through school-age. During the summer, some full days of emergency closing and some breaks, this program has the ability to combine with other CCECC sites to provide full days of childcare. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 175 on 4/8/2026.

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 assistant director/OSS is Erin Hill. Ms. Hill has a MA degree in early childhood special education, a plethora of experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 4/8/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in age defined classrooms. The building has sufficient diapering stations, restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate enrolled children. Meals are prepared and offered through the school district's school lunch program. Meals are transported to the center by way of warming and cooling carts. The school kitchens are regularly inspected. CCECC provides all snack foods and has an on-site kitchen area for food storage. CCECC has an indoor large gross motor room as well as outdoor play areas. It shall be noted that since the last review, security improvements occurred and two classrooms received an additional handwashing sink. A new

preschool-age curriculum was also introduced creating room specific in-depth, fully immersed, innovative areas of study. On 4/8/2026, staff were observed warmly greeting children and families as they arrived for the day. Areas of study throughout the center included pets, recycling, garden, community helpers, trees and balls. Activities observed were many including infant cares, outdoor large gross motor play, in-depth purposeful play experiences, and circle discussions (e.g. book reading, music with movement). 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. Routine transitions throughout all rooms were observed to go smoothly (e.g. restroom-drink breaks, meal rituals, clean-up procedures, nap/quiet rest). Face-to-name checks were happening. On 4/8/2026, 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 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 4/8/2026, 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. 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. Various staff throughout the center talked favorably about their work at CCECC and reported celebrating 9 years, 7 years, 5 years, 4 years, and 2 years with the program.

On 4/9/2026, CCECC 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 future goals including establishing raised garden beds and continued curriculum growth particularly within the newly established Experiential Learning.

CCECC 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 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

None noted.

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

In all preschool-age and older restroom areas, ensure children are using them one at a time or increase privacy around open toliets (e.g. partitions, stalls, curtains).

Please ensure the child proofing in each room continues to be functional (e.g. lower cabinets).

Continue to ensure all diapering surfaces are non-porous (room #502).

Add a child friendly step stool at the new handwashing sink in room #207 (similar to the step stool style in room #208).

There is a tree on the outdoor playground that has matured and is now producing some kind of small round berry (e.g. on the branches, on the ground). Remedy to help prevent possible ingestion and/or a possible choking hazard.

Please obtain a larger outdoor trash dumpster with lid so that garbage is never overflowing. This will help discourage scavenging, improve sanitation and help prevent any possible infestation (e.g. vermin, insects). Please also add a second trash receptacle to room #201 to be able to keep soiled diapers separate from other refuse.

Please continue to review policies with all staff related to handwashing after diapering (room #212), child pacifier usage (room #301), ensuring food service activities are happening only on designated clean and sanitized food surfaces, and regular updating of all postings (e.g. lesson plans, menus).

Licensing strongly supports a dishwasher be installed in the infant room to help improve sanitation and decrease the amount of time staff have to dedicate to the 3-sink-dishwashing method each day.

Please utilize funding (e.g. Growing Iowa Funds-Grant, ECI funds) opportunities as they become available to help with improvements as well as increase 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

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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**.