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

Name of Center: UNI Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 57 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22665

Street: 1901 Campus St **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50614 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 1901 Campus St, Cedar Falls, IA, 50614

Director's Name: Allison Pattee **Phone Number:** 319-273-3946

On-Site Supervisor(s): Allison Pattee **E-Mail:** allison.pattee@uni.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 03-05-2020

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-30-2018

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	16	16	60	0	92
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2019 to 04-01-2021
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 03-26-2020

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 03/05/20 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to UNI Child Development Center in Cedar Falls. I met with Allison Pattee, the director. She became director on 07/01/13. Ms. Pattee has a BA in Early Childhood/Elementary Education from UNI (1997) and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Drake (2006). She taught in a public school for sixteen years. The center employs ten lead teachers and 55 student staff members. Field experience students also work in the classrooms. Nine of the primary teachers have their BA or masters degrees. Staff members are University of Northern Iowa employees. Tera Weber or Aimee Klosterman are in charge when Ms. Pattee are away from the center.

The program operates out of a building that was once Price Lab School on the University of Northern Iowa campus. The center opened in its current location on 01/14/13. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 5:30 pm during the school year and 7:00 am until 5:00 pm during the summer months. It serves infants through preschool-aged children. There are currently 57 children enrolled. The parents have to have a UNI connection (faculty or student) for the children to attend the program.

The center operates out of the following classrooms, Kittens (infants, birth until approximately 18 months), Cubs (toddlers), Cats (two and three-year-olds), Pumas (three and four-year-olds), and Panthers (four and five-year-olds). An inspection of each room was completed. Children typically stay in the room until the completion of the school year and then transition to the new room in the fall unless children have to move up for numbers.

Windows provide natural lighting. 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 were posted. There is an area for circle time. The hallways are decorated with multiple pictures of the children and their artwork. The entrance is also decorated with artwork. There are pictures of the staff members near the office and large pictures of the lead teachers in the foyer. There is a video of the children engaged in activities playing in the entrance.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, Ipads, transportation, play dough, puppets, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, 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.

In the hallway outside the rooms there are large dry erase boards for the children to draw on. This is also where the children's lockers are located. Each locker has a picture of the child with his or her family.

The center uses Creative Curriculum and Iowa Early Learning Standards to create lesson plans. Activities are developed around studies/themes. The length of the study depends on the subject and the children's interest level. The lead teachers in each room work together to develop their own lesson plans. The center has a website and the teachers each have their own blog where they keep parents informed of themes and activities.

The center uses the Daily Note application for daily sheets. This app provides direct access of the information to parents. Make sure you document the disposition of the children under the notes section for the children under two-years-old.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside each classroom and outside of the office. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Each room also has access to cell phones. Emergency numbers were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and diagrams were posted by the main program and outdoor exits in all of the classrooms. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review in each room. The center is NAEYC accredited and it expired on 01/01/24.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Each room keeps documentation of drills in their room. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in March 2018 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program has bought new radon kits to perform new tests. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located in the hallway on top of the lockers. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/30/18.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The center has a contract with the University of Northern Iowa dining center in the towers for lunch and the center prepares breakfast and snacks. They use a four week rotation of menus. Meals are served family style in the room for the older children and teachers assist the younger children. Lunch dishes are placed through an industrial dishwasher in the on-site kitchen and dishes for breakfast and snacks are washed in the classrooms using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in each of the rooms and thermometers were present. There is a refrigerator in the kitchen. Thermometers were present.

Menus were posted in each of the rooms and the infant's feeding schedules were posted in the infant room. The center provides formula, baby food and cereal. Parents can provide their own if they prefer a different brand. The center will provide a different brand if there is a note from a doctor. Bottles are prepared in the infant room. There is a dishwasher in the infant room that bottles and all dishes are put through. Allergies and food restrictions are posted in all the rooms.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is NAEYC accredited with an expiration date of 01/01/24.

Ms. Pattee states the teachers have a passion to learn more and they take training to exceed expectations. All of the lead teachers, except one, have degrees in early childhood education.

Ms. Pattee states the staff members have terrific relationships with the families they serve.

The program is partnering with Head Start to provide care to eligible children through an Early Access grant. Head Start provides a family worker and a program manager.

The program receives a lot of support from UNI.

Ms. Pattee states they place "best practice" in the fore front when teachers make decisions, not always what is easiest.

The entrance and hallways are filled with pictures of the children and staff members as well as art projects completed by the children.

The infant room has the use of owlets.

The classrooms are child friendly, inviting and have several visual cues and activities for the children.

The program completes AQS and Gold Assessments on all age groups. The have conferences in the fall and spring.

INTERACTIONS:
Classrooms are staffed at above the required staff-to-child ratio and children receive increased supervision and individual attention because of the number of student staff members and field experience students. All staff members and students were observed to have fantastic interaction with the children.

WORKFORCE STABILITY:
Ms. Pattee states they advertise in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier and on Facebook to find new lead teachers. For their

student staff members they advertise on the UNI job board. They also talk to the early childhood classes about openings.

Ms. Pattee states to retain staff members they provide a “family feel” to their program. They are considered UNI employees so they received UNI benefits. She states the teachers do things together and support one another.

WORKFORCE SKILL DEVELOPMENT:
Ms. Pattee states to help individuals realize the greatness that can come from working in child care by sharing positive feedback from the families they serve. They have a private Facebook page for their families and see the rewards through this page. Many of their lead teachers have been with the program a while. Ms. Pattee states they try to teach early childhood development by talking about what is happening in a common language that families will understand.

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

N/A

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.

*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.