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

Name of Center: Stacyville Kids Care **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22410

Street: 603 N Broad St **City:** Stacyville Iowa **Zip** 50476 **County:** Mitchell

Mailing Address: 603 N Broad St, Stacyville, IA, 50476

Director's Name: Savannah Nelson **Phone Number:** 641-710-2367

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** stacyvillekidscare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-29-2025

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

Date Inspected: 11-21-2022

Comments : Compliance on 10/03/16.

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 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	8		22	15	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 06-02-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Stacyville Kids Care Inc on 05-29-25 where I met with center director Savannah Nelson. Upon initial arrival Savannah was not in and when inquiring about who was in charge the staff did not have a clear understanding of who if anyone had been designated in that role. While it is understood that a director may not be at the center at all times an individual must be clearly designated as being in-charge so that all staff and parents know who to speak to if an issue were to arise. Savannah took over the director role in January of 2024 and is well qualified for the position with a diploma in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and prior experience with other child care centers. The program is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a board of directors. The center is located in the lower level of the community center but access to the center is limited during the time that the program is in operation. The center provides full range child care serving infants through school age children. There are currently 15 children enrolled in the program served by 7 teachers.

The general layout and operation of the program remains the same as in prior years. The center operates out of three rooms determined by age group with one for infants, one for 2-3 year old children, and one for pre-school and school age children. The school age area is part of a larger space that uses shelving units and other structures to define the primary programming space. It is noted that during discussions with the Fire Inspector the use of the mobile panel dividers is a fire code issue and need to be removed. The space can continue to be utilized for older age children. The infant room is divided into a sleeping area, programming area, and feeding area through the use of half walls and mobile barriers. A Gate provides access between the programming and feeding area, and staff move a mobile barrier to access the sleeping area. Staff were observed to use these entry options but when using mobile barriers access points that allow clear and easy access should be maintained to prevent staff from stepping over barriers. There are windows along the upper level of the exterior walls that provide some natural light and a limited view in the infant and toddler rooms. Each room has secondary exits though none are a direct access to the outdoors. All exits were maintained to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are located outside the classrooms off the main entry corridor and children are escorted to the restrooms as needed. Sinks are present in the restrooms and classrooms to facilitate hand washing. During the visit the water temperature was measured to be 126.9 deg. F. This is reduced from the time of the prior visit and Savannah did state that while the temperatures had been lowered there has been additional work done on the water heater with temperatures being adjusted. It was reviewed that the temperature needs to be reduced to no more than 120 deg. F. at the spigot by either reducing the settings of the heater, or installing mechanical options such as mixer valves. The infant room sink has a separate heating unit and the water temperatures of that sink were within acceptable limits. The infant and preschool rooms also have changing stations present. The required postings for hand washing, and diapering were present by sinks and changing stations. Activity centers are created through the use of furniture and play structures and are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. The daily schedule and curriculum were posted.

All staff were observed to be actively engaged and providing good supervision to the children. This included the teachers moving the children through the planned schedule with both teacher directed activities and child directed free play activities. The center does make use of positive behavior management approaches such as routines and reminders to encourage appropriate behavior, and the use of redirection for when children do begin to make poor choices. The teachers were observed to use positive and engaging tones of voice and word choices. This was very effective with no behavioral

concerns being noted on the day of the visit. Ratio was maintained as required by age group. The center was operating with a mixed grouping of two through school age children in the toddler room due to the questions about the ability to use sectioned off areas of the larger room for older age children. As noted the Fire Inspector had identified that the use of the mobile panel dividers would be a fire code issue and it was suggested that the center remove those barriers to just make use of the full of the larger space. Separation of age groups could then be maintained through programming with staff defining specific activities and providing supervision to keep the groups separated.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but the center does need to review some practices. I was able to observe a diaper change and the staff did follow the established procedures. The center did not have any children taking any prescription medications but does have polices in place should it become necessary in the future. All over the counter medications are labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belongs. First aid kits were present and the center has a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. One purse was left out where it was accessible to children. Good Safe Sleep practices were followed on the day of the visit. It was noted that some of the toys in the toys in the toddler room contained small parts that can break off which would be less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length and would be considered choking hazards. These need to be removed from use by children under 3 year of age.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on site. The center uses a 5 week menu rotation which identified a good variety of credible meal options. Good food storage practices were observed in the kitchen and classroom areas. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no signs of significant infestation and the center does have a contract with a pest management contractor. Meals are served in the classrooms and supervision was provided at the tables. Meals are pre-portioned by the staff and good service and food handling practices were observed with staff using measured scoops to ensure each child received a full serving.

The center makes use of a playground located across the parking lot. There is a preschool age climbing structure present which Savannah stated did have maintenance performed and it was observed that the area where the slide chute was pulling away from the platform anchor had been repaired. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing and has developed a hard pan layer that needs to be aerated and/or have material added to ensure a proper depth of loose fill. The center had removed the damaged toys and materials, and did acquire some new equipment with several smaller toddler play structures. Large mature trees along the perimeter provide shade. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices and postings were present in an area readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. All child files were reviewed and were found to contain all required information. The center is using the Brightwheel electronic records management system which does include a parental communication application. This does include staff using that system to document the required daily care information for infants but continued to fail to document daily activities and disposition. The application does have the ability to take photos of the children and it was identified that this could be used to provide a visual depiction of the child's mood and activities but that staff would need to post a daily photo and should post photos from the morning and afternoon to show any changes in functioning. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Inspection logs and certificates were current available with the exception of Fuel Burning Appliances, and Playground inspections which could not be found on the day of the visit. Savannah did note that the city is responsible for maintaining the furnace and other mechanicals of the building and would have the records regarding the servicing and inspection of those units.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has worked to update the facilities with a new entry door, painting, and playground equipment.

The center has also achieved a strong level of stability over the past year with Savannah having updated records, and establishing a strong group of core employees.

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

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities. -- Documentation of daily activities and disposition is not being maintained. --- 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to

reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- Purses shall be stored where they are not accessible to children. Toys with small parts that can be choking hazards shall be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. The fall surfacing of the outdoor playground needs to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material. Water temperatures of hand washing sinks needs to be adjusted to not exceed 120 deg. F.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
-- Documentation not present on the day of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.