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

Name of Center: College Community CVT Preschool & Childcare **Enrollment:** 12 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51904

Street: 3000 J Street SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Kathleen "Kathy" Schulte **Phone Number:** 319-200-3456

On-Site Supervisor(s): Calese Clemens **E-Mail:** kschulte@crprairie.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-04-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-28-2022

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

Date Inspected: 05-17-2021

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			15		15
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-28-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 11-28-2022

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

Not applicable. This is a new program which completed an Application to Operate on 7/7/2022. The program was granted permission to open on 7/28/2022 and commenced programming on 8/30/2022.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

College Community Early Childhood Center (CCECC) has been in operation for many years and operates several program throughout the College Community School District. Specifically, College Community CVT Preschool & Childcare (CCCVTPC) just commenced operations with the 2022-2023 school-year and is located inside Cedar Valley Townhomes. The CCCVTPC license includes school-year only childcare for preschool-age children outside of the statewide voluntary 4-year-old preschool program (primarily located in the Community Center within the Cedar Valley Townhomes). During the summer, some full days of emergency closing (example snow day), and some breaks (holiday and spring), this program has the ability to combine with other CCECC sites to provide full day child care. Current enrollment is 12.

Multi-site director Kathleen "Kathy" Schulte has a MA degree in early childhood elementary education. Ms. Schulte has over 25 years of experience working with children including during her work as a school principal and early childhood teacher. Specific site supervisor is Calese Clemens. Ms. Clemens has a BA degree in international studies/liberal arts, 3 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/4/2022, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

CCECC operates multiple sites throughout the community that offer a variety of childcare and early learning programming opportunities to help meet the needs of children and families. CCECC is well-established and accepts a variety of funding sources.

CCECC has a history of participation in quality initiatives with goals of continued participation.

CCCVTPC has the following website for persons to learn about this program:
https://www.crprairie.org/news/2022/09/15/four-year-old-preschool-openings-available-at-college-community-schools-no-cost-to-families/

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 is non-profit and operates under a Board of Directors. Ownership and management of the program has remained consistent. The management team includes multi-site early childhood principal-director Ms. Schulte, assistant director Erin Hill, administrative assistant Jenna Langhurst, billing specialist Hillary Baustian, early childhood instructional coach Sara Kayser, CFO of educational services Angela Morrison, multi-site school-age coordinator Whitney Hinrichs, and site specific supervisor Ms. Clemens. Ms. Schulte and the entire CCECC management team are organized, and in turn, CCECC programs operate smoothly. Ms. Schulte and the CCECC management team have noteworthy systems of organization in

place to help ensure administrative items are complete as required and maintained in a secure manner. CCECC management team have talked about being appreciative of the collaboration that is done among all CCECC sites that allows for a sharing of materials, curriculum, and ideas/planning.

While this is a new site which commenced operations with the start of the 2022-2023 school-year, some staff have been employed with CCECC in other capacities prior to moving to this site. Many CCECC staff have advanced degrees in education and early childhood development. Since 2009, CCECC has had over 32 staff participate in the TEACH program. Ms. Schulte discussed how CCECC currently has 9 staff participating in the TEACH program. Each new staff is encouraged and given the opportunity to pursue a CDA at no training cost. Documentation indicates that CCECC employees often complete annual professional growth training that exceeds Iowa Code requirements. Ms. Schulte talked about how CCECC values education and understands the link between education and quality programming. The program has a professional orientation system for onboarding new staff and for continuous transfer of knowledge to seasoned staff. The program utilizes the Iowa Wages Program. Management discussed being incredibly appreciative and proud of their highly qualified staff who assist in various capacities as needed, who share their professional joys and challenges with one another, and who continue their commitment to the children and families they serve. Management continues to display their appreciation through daily "Love Your Face" shout-outs, special food days (e.g. soup day, sub lunches, baked potato bar, morning donuts, chocolate, fully stocked ice cream), classroom door decorating contests, uniquely seasonal inspired lanyards, annual staff ugly homemade cake contest, dress up days (e.g. December elves) and much more. Management indicated their staff are "...an extension of a family..."

CCECC as a whole has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. CCECC has successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County flood, the 8/10/22 Derecho Storm event, and the 2019 pandemic. Specifically, CCCVTPC has site specific emergency plans, policies and procedures that are unique for their location.

CCCVTPC is working to enhance communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources (e.g. use of App), and supports family programming activities. CCECC regularly conducts a family survey and continues to note much program satisfaction with positive family feedback. Registration events are held which include assistance (e.g. interpreters) in completing administrative/registration paperwork.

CCCVTPC emerged from a collaboration among many community partners including the College Community School District, Cedar Valley Townhomes, Four Oaks, Affordable Housing Network, and head start. The classroom is located inside the Community Center of the Cedar Valley Townhomes which also houses a community resource room, community computers and food pantry. Cedar Valley Townhomes is a vibrant community located in the College Community School District. The property has 186 townhomes, varying in size from one to three bedrooms. Cedar Valley Townhomes is owned and operated by the Affordable Housing Network a partner of Four Oaks. All partners involved have administration and custodial persons that help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The program has regular access to additional areas within the Community Center including community resource room on inclement weather days, fenced outdoor space, and restroom areas.

The classroom is arranged in a thoughtful manner keeping learning at the forefront. Curriculum is designed to help children become lifelong learners. Curriculum is a combination of learning strategies including Iowa Early Learning Standards, Creative Curriculum (e.g. gold, cloud), Everyday Math Enrichment, Second Step, Jolly Phonics, Heggerty Phonics Awareness, Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports, SPARK after-school, and Mind Works. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events and themed celebrations. Communication between children and staff is done verbally, with picture cues, and through sign language. The program has access to some rolling carts so loose outdoor/large gross motor materials can be easily moved from one area to another for use.

CCECC sites collaborate well with many community partners including local businesses, health professionals, early access professionals, head start, other local school districts, various non-profit organizations, ECI, and CCR&R. CCCVTPC receives food service from Horizons Family Service Alliance provider. CCECC applies for and has received grants.

Staff engage each child in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. A health and safety checklist was observed to be posted on-site. Staff discussed the program's cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing policies and procedures.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were observed to be nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, sensory items, craft) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many (e.g. warm morning arrival and greeting, small group work with puzzles and name writing). Most noteworthy was the morning circle discussion (e.g. yesterday's earned stinky feet party with bubbles, daily job duties, weather, calendar, rules of the classroom, ABCs/phonic work, music with movement,

"Clap, Clap, Sparkle, Sparkle") that captured children's attention as evidence by outstanding child/staff participation and much laughter by all. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, food service/breakfast activities, social graces) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement (e.g. "I like how you are using team work", "You worked hard on those letters, kiss your brain", sign language for "all done") and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure a UL Standard 2034 carbon monoxide detector is in full use each day.

Continue to ensure all electrical outlets are covered.

Ensure an outdoor play inspection is being conducted and documented monthly.

Continue to ensure any child with a special health need has written documentation as to the specific need and any cares that may be needed (e.g. rescue medication locatable and secured).

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.