Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Safe Care Kids Center LLC

Provider No.: 50153

Address: 128 S Barclay ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Kimberly Kemp & Shauna Lewis

On-Site Supervisor: Kimberly Kemp & Shauna Lewis

Phone Number: 3192330889

E-Mail: safecarelearningcenter@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/28/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/21/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Thursday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Friday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	16	33	49
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 09/28/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Safe Care Kids Center in Waterloo. I met with Kimberly Kemp, the owner and director of the program. Ms. Kemp has an AAS in business administration and management. She previously owned a non-registered childcare home for one year and a registered childcare home for seven years. Shauna Lewis is a co-director. She started working with the program in August 2021. She has an AA in an unrelated field and several hours of training. Ms. Kemp states she plans to have Alexandria Currin apply to be the on-site supervisor. The program shares staff members with Ms. Kemp's other childcare center, Safe Care Learning Center. There are two staff members on site with children at this site.

Safe Care Kids Center was given permission to open on 07/13/18. It is open Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. The program primarily provides care for school-aged children but would care for preschool children also if the need arises. There are currently nine children enrolled. The facility has the capacity to care for 49 children. While the center can stay open until 10:00 pm, the children typically move to the Safe Care Learning Center facility between 8:00-8:30 pm.

Ms. Kemp also owns Safe Care Leaning Center, LLC in Waterloo. Safe Care Kids Center is in a free-standing building that was once a part of the Quakerdale residential treatment program. The two programs are located directly next to one another.

The program is primarily using the two connected rec room areas for childcare. This provides the children with two open spaces to interact. There is a shelving piece that divides the room and blocks the view from one room to the other. A staff member will have to be present in each room when both areas are in use. In addition to the rec rooms there are several small rooms in the facility. Currently, only one small room is being used as a game room for the children. It has three video

games and a foosball table. Eventually, the plan is for each small room to be assigned a center. There will be a room for science/STEM, library, music, creative arts and dramatic play. When you begin using these rooms, each room must have a staff member present for supervision. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, table toys, games, puzzles, science, math, dramatic play and art. 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 are easily accessible to the children.

There are three bathrooms located on the back side of the building. One bathroom has one toilet and one sink. The other two bathrooms have two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. A staff member must accompany children to the back side of the building and supervise children walking into and out of the bathrooms. This may require you to have an additional staff member on site. There is an additional bathroom near the east exit of the building. This bathroom is currently not being used.

During the school year the program is only used for before and after school care, so a lesson plan is not mandated. The children do homework, read and engage in free play while at the program. They are only at this site for 2-3 hours each day after school. During the summer months a lesson plan is prepared. The program uses Scholars Achieving Future Entrepreneurship, a Safe Way Curriculum and Skilled Learners.

Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted near all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the facility that are being used. Make sure you post them in all the smaller rooms once you begin to use them. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. The children eat snack on site. They sometimes eat supper on site and other times eat it at the Safe Care Learning Center site. During the school year the children are served breakfast prior to school, an afternoon snack and supper and an evening snack if they stay for evening care. During the summer months the program serves breakfast, lunch, a morning and afternoon snack. The children who stay in the evening are offered dinner and an evening snack. A menu was posted. The program uses a two month rotation of menus and menus are adjusted for the seasons. There is a kitchen in the facility, but meals are made at Safe Care Learning Center and brought over. Deborah Pendleton is the cook. There was a refrigerator and a thermometer was present. The program washes the dishes using the three-step method because the dishwasher does not work.

Member's Mark Sanitizer is used to sanitize the food tables. The tables are being cleaned with soap and water prior to sanitizing. If something needs to be disinfected the program uses bleach and water.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The program only uses a grassy area and a concrete area for basketball. They also have use of the Quakerdale gym on occasion.

The radon test was completed in September 2023. Results were within EPA guidelines. The test is good for five years. Ms. Kemp has contacted a heating agency to schedule the annual fuel burning inspection and she is waiting for a call back. No concerns were noted during the previous inspection.

A carbon monoxide detector is in the kitchen. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/21/24.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance hallway. The mandatory reporter was posted. The license was conspicuously hung. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted.

The program received playground equipment from the former Expo High School and a closed Waterloo elementary school. They have not had the opportunity to purchase and install fall surface, so the equipment is not being used. Once you are using the playground area you must complete monthly playground inspections and have them available for review during licensing visits. Currently, the children play in a grassy area, and they have use of a gym on Quakerdale campus.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed five children files. They were in great condition.

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I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There is currently low enrollment in this program which allows for a smaller intimate setting to interact with the children. On the day of my visit there were four children with two staff members. When the children arrived, they immediately went to wash their hands for snack. The staff members maintained positive conversation with the children as they ate snack. They included the children in problem solving and talked with them about being kind to others. The children then had time to work on homework. A staff member did a spelling bee with one of the children. Staff members were enthusiastic and encouraging.

Ms. Kemp states Senora Gilley, a staff member for the program, is a full time "educational junkie" and Alexandria Currin, another staff member has great experience. They both want to work and stay around for the school age children.

Ms. Gilley states she makes sure the children get their homework done and if they do not have homework the children can read a book.

Ms. Kemp states they have some staff members returning to college and Ms. Currin tutors the staff members on the weekends. It is great she is using her teaching skills.

Ms. Kemp states the campus the center sits on is great. They have use of a large grassy area and the new owner has recently stated she is going to add fencing. They also have use of the gym.

Ms. Kemp states the center has been using Thrive Iowa in Black Hawk County to help the families they serve. They have made multiple referrals to the program. Thrive Iowa is a community led initiative that connects families in crisis with local resources through dedicated navigators and a coordinated system.

Ms. Kemp uses CCR&R as a resource.

Ms. Kemp states she loves that the center uses Waterloo School employees during the summer months. They play a key role in keeping the children on track.

Ms. Kemp states they have two center vans and transport children to Orange Elementary, Cunningham Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Kittrell Elementary, and Becker Elementary.

The program is a bus stop for three Waterloo schools (Cunningham Elementary, Lowell Elementary and Highland Elementary).

The center can use the Quakerdale gym for gross motor play when they cannot go outside.

Ms. Kemp states they use the Brightwheel app for communication with families and among staff members. They also use the app attendance and for billing.

The program has a secured entrance.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no violations.

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

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N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Kemp her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Kemp states staff members have monthly meetings regarding this topic. They have three “go to” staff members at the center that deal with children who have aggressive behaviors. Staff members know they can send the children who are acting out to these staff members. Several staff members attended a two-day training through CCR&R in another area that strictly dealt with challenging behaviors. She states it was a great training and the staff members who attended came back and were excited to share the tools they learned with the other staff members.

Ms. Kemp states the staff members use walkie talkies for core line communication so they can ask for help or ask to take a break. Ms. Kemp states she has made it mandatory that staff members take breaks during the day.

Ms. Kemp states the beginning of a child’s day is important and if they come in and it is a rough day they can communicate with the parents through the Brightwheel app to ask about their routine and see if there was something that happened to throw off the child’s day. It can be a simple cause that they can address.

To monitor, Ms. Kemp states she can visually monitor through cameras (when they are working). She does an observation checklist in the classrooms that has helped provide her with clarity on how staff members deal with behaviors. She states she can also hear any loud voices anywhere in the center from the office.

Date: 09/29/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.