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

Name of Center: Waverly Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 352 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18382

Street: 1600 W Bremer Ave **City:** Waverly Iowa **Zip** 50677 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: PO Box 34, Waverly, IA, 50677

Director's Name: Heather Wagner **Phone Number:** 319-352-4664

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristin Kuiper **E-Mail:** wccp1970@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-06-2024

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: 09-11-2023

Comments : Fire inspection of new addition completed 01/26/23 with compliance on 02/02/23. Second Phase fire inspection occurred on 08/23/23 with compliance on 09/08/23.

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	90	53	141	60	344
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 06-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 06/06/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Waverly Child Care and Preschool. I met with Heather Wagner, the director. Her internal title is Director of Operations. She started this position in December 2021. Ms. Wagner has an AAS in child development and has been employed with the program for sixteen years. She has completed NAC training. Kristin Kuiper is the on-site supervisor for this program. Her internal title is assistant director. She has been with the center since January 2002 and the on-site supervisor since May 2022. She has a BA in psychology. There are 31 staff members employed by the center.

The center is in a free-standing building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. The program cares for infants through school-aged children, aged ten-years-old (or fourth grade). There are currently 200 children enrolled. There are resources for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

The center has the following rooms: two infant rooms (birth until approximately12 months), two toddler rooms (approximately 12-24 months), two two-year-old rooms, two three-year-old rooms, two mixed three and four-year-old rooms, two four-year-old rooms and school-aged children are cared for in the multi-purpose room. An inspection of each room was completed. Not all the rooms are currently being used. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with 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 birthdates are also posted in some of the rooms. There is an area for circle time in most rooms.

I observed the infant room and the toddler room to be out of ratio the day of my visit. In the infant room a child was dropped off five minutes early, which cause the room to be out of ratio. In the toddler room the staff member was late coming in resulting the room to be out of ratio. Both rooms were only out of ratio for approximately five minutes so this will not be cited. My expectation is that when a room becomes out of ratio staff members call the office right away and ask for assistance versus staying out of ratio.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art/crafts, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, puppets, play dough, 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 mixed three and four-year-old room the electrical cords for the television and CD player were within reach of the children and need to be secured. This was corrected prior to me leaving the room. The electrical cord for the CD player in the voluntary preschool classroom also needs to be secured so children do not have access to it.

The center partners with the Waverly Shell Rock School District to provide the voluntary preschool program. The preschool program participates in the Iowa QPPS program. Amy Slaba is the lead teacher for the program. The preschool classes meet Monday through Friday and offer a morning class from 9:00-11:00 am and an afternoon class from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Creative Curriculum is used to develop lesson plans for the voluntary preschool program. In the other classrooms a variety of resources are used. Activities are planned around themes. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest. Lesson plans were available for review in every room except the mixed three and four-year-old room. The lead teacher informed me she had her lesson plan in her car. She was able to tell me her plan for the day.

The center is using ProCare to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two-years-old. They are also use the app to communicate with all the families. They can send pictures and document activities or concerns. Parents have access to the information immediately and enjoy using the app.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Place the diagram near the outdoor exit in the multi-purpose room and near the two-year-old room (room 128) near the exit on the north side of the room. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. All the drills are practiced during the morning hours of operation. You should practice them in the afternoon also. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2022. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in each program room as part of the safety system on the ceiling along with the fire alarms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/26/23 in the new addition, with compliance on 02/02/23. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/23/23, with compliance on 09/08/23 for the newly renovated original building.

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. Ashley Wiele is the cook. A new menu is prepared each week. Menus were posted. Food was stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. There is an industrial refrigerator and two industrial freezers in the kitchen and thermometers were present. There is also a bread freezer and a milk cooler and thermometers were present. There are three industrial sinks and a dishwasher. There are also two handwashing sinks.

In the infant room, the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. Parents can bring a different brand if they choose. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. Bottles are typically sent home to be washed because most parents bring the bottles prepared each day. If bottles are kept on site they are washed and sanitized in the room.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members, and they are being done correctly. In the infant room the staff member cleaned and disinfected the changing table while holding a child. This cannot occur. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

Handwashing procedures were not posted near all the sinks in the center. Please walk through the classrooms and post the handwashing procedures near all sinks. This will not be cited since renovations have just been completed.

The parent information is in the entrance of the center. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

There are three fenced in playground areas behind the original building. Two of the areas are used for two-year-old children. One has rubber tiles for surface cushioning. The area has a playhouse and small slides. It has some pushing toys and riding toys and a picnic table. There is a large shade structure in this area.

The second area uses woodchips for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment with slides and other activities, a balance beam, a sandbox and a cemented area for sidewalk chalk and riding toys. There is a tree planted in this area.

The third area is for the preschool children. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning and there is also a large grassy area. There is climbing equipment with slides, ramps and other activities, a sandbox, a balance beam, a playhouse and a picnic table. There is also a cemented area for riding toys and sidewalk chalk. There is a large shade canopy in this area and trees to provide shade. You should add more sand to the sandbox.

Behind the new building there is a fenced in area for infants and toddlers and a larger space for the older children. The larger space is currently being used by school age children but will eventually be used by preschool children also. This is a large grassy area with no equipment. They plan to keep the space natural for right now. The area for the infants and toddlers is not being used yet because it is not safe for use currently. The area is covered in small beads that would be dangerous for children to consume. The center is actively working on correcting this issue. The plan currently is to have a compony come and vacuum up the beads.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The missing policies from last year's visit were present.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children in the program rooms. They moved around the space to provide careful supervision and to interact with the children. They sat on the floor with the children and were actively engaged in activities. They introduced them to new things to try and enjoy. They read books to the children and included them in the story by asking questions. They were nurturing and held children on their laps. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. In the infant room the lead teacher keeps an organized feeding schedule for each child in case she is not there. In the voluntary preschool room, they had a "kindness chain" and a child gets a ring on the chain each time they perform a kind act. Ms. Slaba is very organized. Staff members maintained positive conversation with the children. They greeted children and parents as they arrived. They were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has provided childcare since 1970. They celebrated 50 years of existence in August 2020. They purchased land next to the existing center and just completed construction of a new addition and took possession of it in February 2023. They completed renovating the original center in August 2023.

I say this each year but it remains true. Ms. Wagner is passionate about childcare and providing quality care to the families they serve. She is dedicated to the program, and she is doing an amazing job as the interim director. She reaches out when she has questions and makes corrections immediately when necessary. Staff members seem happy working with Ms. Wagner.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Wagner states they have amazing staff members. She states they are reliable. When some staff members are gone the other staff members are willing to step up and cover shifts. She states staff members are work as a team.

Ms. Wagner states staff members take on new roles and responsibilities as teachers and collaborate with one another because they want quality lesson plans and they want fun activities for the children.

Ms. Wagner states they care about the families they serve and the children they care for each day. They want to give quality care.

Ms. Wagner states the staff members are like family.

The center has a partnership with the Waverly Shell Rock school district and Wartburg College.

The center partners with Waverly Shell Rock school district to provide the four-year-old voluntary preschool program.

The center works with Central Rivers AEA to assist children with identified needs.

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.