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

Name of Center: Community United Child Care Centers-Westridge **Enrollment:** 138 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22648

Street: 3610 Ansborough Ave **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 1026 E Seerley BLVD, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jay Mattson **Phone Number:** 319-234-5920

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amy Junkins **E-Mail:** admined@cuccc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-17-2024

X **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: 10-10-2024

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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care X 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	94	48	96	32	270
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-22-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/17/24 I made an unannounced off year visit to CUCCC-Westridge in Waterloo. I met with Amy Junkins, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Junkins has an AAS in early childhood education and has been the on-site supervisor since July 2012. Nikki Pfalzgraf is the assistant program director and she is in charge when Ms. Junkins is not available. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers (CUCCC). The non-profit corporation operates three childcare centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. CUCCC was formed on 07/01/93 and all the sites are handicap accessible. There are 47 staff members employed by this center.

The program is in a free-standing building. There was an addition to the building that the program began using in June 2016 . The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 138 children enrolled. The program has the capacity to serve 270 children. CUCCC-Westridge is NAEYC accredited that expires 10/01/26.

The center operates out of the following rooms: two infant rooms (Turtle and Jelly Fish), two toddler rooms (Starfish and Lobster), two two-year-old rooms (Seal and Dolphins), two three-year-old rooms (Walrus and Whales), two four and five-year-old rooms (Sting Ray and Shark), and a school-aged room (Octopus). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, 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 in each room. Rooms were in ratio during the visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, puppets, Play-Doh, writing, math, science/discovery, 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.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Activities are typically developed around weekly themes, but themes may last longer depending on the subject and the children's interest level. Lesson plans are developed by the lead teachers. A monthly newsletter is provided to parents to remind them of important dates and inform them of current themes in each room. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2024 and is good for two years. The results have not been received yet. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the boiler room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/10/24.

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. Tara Thein is the cook. The program uses a four-week rotation of menus. The children eat in their classrooms. Family style is currently not being used.

The program provides one brand of formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are prepared and washed in the infant room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in each infant room and thermometers were present.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial dishwasher to wash dishes and there are also additional sinks to use the three-step method. There is a handwashing sink in the kitchen. Allergies are posted in the kitchen as well as in the rooms. There is a refrigerator, an industrial refrigerator and freezer, an upright freezer, and a chest freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guideline.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize food tables and disinfect changing tables. I observed or discussed diaper changes in the classrooms. In both toddler rooms and both infant rooms the staff members were leaving their gloves on through the entire changing process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. I would recommend a reminder course on diaper changing.

There are several bathrooms throughout the center. Each toddler room has a space where there are two diaper changing tables, a sink and a toilet. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There are two diaper changing tables and two handwashing sinks in each of the infant rooms and procedures were posted. The two-year-old classrooms share a bathroom with two toilets and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. The three-year-old classrooms share a bathroom with two toilets and one sink and handwashing procedures were not posted but this was corrected prior to me leaving. The four and five-year-old rooms share a bathroom space with three toilets and one sink and procedures were posted. The school age room has two bathrooms located in the classroom. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. The classrooms for ages two through school-age each have a handwashing sink in the classroom and procedures were posted.

Daily sheets are maintained in each room.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant rooms and cots and cribs are available in the toddler rooms. Cots are used to nap for the other children. In the Seal room blankets were hanging over the cribs. The bedding of one child cannot touch the bedding of another child. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

The outdoor play area is divided into several separate fenced areas. There is a large grassy fenced-in area outside of these divided areas for use by children two-years-old and older. There is a playhouse in this area and trees are used for shade. There is also a large area that has concrete. There are basketball hoops a sensory table and children use chalk.

Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning in five of the playground areas. These areas also have some grassy space. Shade is provided by trees in some of the playground areas and other areas have tarps. There is a tarp between the play areas for the three-year-old children and the preschool children. There is a storage bin in each of the area with additional play items.

The infant area is located directly outside of the infant rooms. It has grass and rubber tiles. There are a couple pieces of dramatic play equipment.

The toddler area has a small piece of climbing equipment with a slide. There are pushing toys and other activities.

The two-year-old area has a piece of climbing equipment with slides. There is a stationary dinosaur for the children to climb on. There is a sensory table and dramatic play equipment.

The three year-old area has a piece of climbing equipment with slides. There is a picnic table.

The preschool area has a large piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is a bench in the area.

The school-age area has a large piece of equipment with slides, climbing walls, monkey bars and rings.

There is a large grassy area on the west side of the center. They use this area for water play.

The program also has the motor room available for when they are unable to go outside. The motor room has a padded surface cushioning under a balance beam. There are sensory items on the wall.

The parent information is located on bulletin boards inside the entrance. There is also parent boards located in each

classroom. 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.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children. They were actively engaged in activities. Staff members were reading to the children. They used expressive voices to make the story fun. Staff members sat on the floor and played games and introduced activities to the children. They offered the children choices and used the books to talk with the children about animals, colors and counting. Staff members were nurturing. They held children on their laps. They sat with the children during snack and maintained positive conversation. Staff members had good knowledge of the children and their routines. I observed several children ask staff members for hugs. They were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared happy at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Junkins states she and Ms. Pfalzgraf are still working together and make a great team.

Ms. Junkins states they have staff members that have good hearts and passion. She states they had not seen that in a while. She states for a while with the staff shortage they were just hiring bodies.

Ms. Junkins states they have been enrolling more children so they are decreasing their waiting list. She states they are accepting more CCA families.

Staff members are incorporating STEM activities in their classrooms and/or they put a STEM activity in their monthly newsletter to the parents for them to do with their children at home.

The program conducts Brigance Developmental Screens the month of their birthday if they are new and then 45 days after they start. GOLD assessments are conducted twice each year on all children. DECA assessments are completed on children ages three through five-years-old.

The center is NAEYC accredited and this expires on 10/01/26. The center received The Courier Best of the Best Recognition for the best childcare center in 2020 and 2024.

Owlets are used in the infant rooms.

There are pictures of staff members in the entrance.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each room, the hallways and on the playgrounds.

The program offers parent and teacher conferences in the fall and the spring.

Rooms are decorated with several arts/crafts made by the children, which makes the rooms very inviting and child friendly. Centers in each of the rooms are clearly labeled and have pictures to assist the children.

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

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: In both toddler rooms and both infant rooms the staff members were leaving their gloves on through the entire changing process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. I would recommend a reminder course on diaper changing.

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.