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

Name of Center: The Goddard School of Waukee **Enrollment:** 136 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47986

Street: 80 NE Carefree LN **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 80 NE Carefree LN, Waukee, IA, 50263

Director's Name: Holly Showalter and Liz Smith **Phone Number:** 515-297-6555

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** dwaukeeia2@goddardschools.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-07-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-03-2025

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

Date Inspected: 12-17-2024

Comments : Waukee Fire Marshal.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	24	12	92		128
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 03-10-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 3/7/25. Director, Holly Showalter, was present throughout this visit. The owner/director, Liz Smith, was present for a portion of this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Goddard School of Waukee is a center in Waukee, IA that was given permission to open on 11/8/16. The center opened for business on 11/14/16. The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly six years in age using the Wonders of Learning Curriculum which is Goddard based. The center is open year-round. There are a total of nine classrooms.

The owner and head director of the center is Liz Smith. Liz has a BA degree in Education. Liz has past experience working in child care and the school setting. The director of the center as of 1/2021 is Holly Showalter. Holly has a BA degree in Education and has past experience working in child care.

During the visit, the majority of children were observed napping in cribs, being held, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them, and napping on cots in other classrooms. Staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment remains steady.

The center is very well lit and was clean.

There is a secure entrance into the building. There is also a security outside camera system in place.

The center uses an electronic system for checking staff/children into and out of the center. Daily sheets and other forms are also electronic (Kaymbu).

Lead teachers all have degrees (preschool and up).

Monthly staff meetings are held.

Parent-teacher conferences are held two times a year. The center also has a website and Facebook page to communicate with parents.

A certified playground inspection company does a full inspection on the center playground areas yearly.

Staff receive recognition for good work ("shout outs" and "teacher of the month"). Staff are eligible for benefits and wages are competitive. Staff receive more training than required and management provides staff with modeling and coaching to achieve best practice. There is a good core staff retention.

In 2/2021, the center became NAEYC accredited.

Several staff are involved in the WAGES and TEACH programs.

The center is involved in a Spanish teaching program, yoga, chess, S.T.E.M., tennis, choir, violin, dance, music, and other programs for children to participate.

The director is organized.

Within the past year, many of the classrooms have again been freshly painted.

The center has an outdoor garden.

Staff stated they enjoy their jobs and working with each other and the families/children they serve.

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

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 2 immunizations were not signed and dated.
Number invalid: 0

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted. Radon testing is past due. The center is currently on a two year plan.

109.12(4): Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.
Cot spacing between napping children should be three feet apart.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 12/24/23 - 12/26/23 and one classroom was not yet retested. All but one classroom came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. One classroom came back with radon levels right at 4.0. This classroom will have to be retested to get levels below 4.0. A radon mitigation specialist will need to be contacted if this classroom is still 4.0 or higher at the next test. Because of the one classroom being at 4.0, the center will remain on an every two year testing plan for now. THE DIRECTOR HAS PURCHASED KITS AND PLANS TO RETEST ALL CLASSROOMS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

The annual furnace inspection was completed on 10/9/24.

It was previously noted that the center does not do field trips, but they do bring different businesses into the center for presentations to the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. It appears most staff have I-Power profiles and training is being uploaded. The center is still working on IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Toys shouldn't be stored on narrow shelves unless these shelves are up against a wall.

The director will need to touch base with their relocation places in the event an evacuation is needed.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent in on 3/3/25.

*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.