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

Name of Center: Happy Time Preschool & Daycare **Enrollment:** 110 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22653

Street: 3520 Ansborough AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 3520 Ansborough AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Brittany Barthel **Phone Number:** 319-235-6783

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jessica Benter **E-Mail:** htdirector@cedarvalleychurch.net

Date(s) of Visit: 01-14-2025

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:** 12-30-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-18-2024

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 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	28	60	72	59	219
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-16-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/14/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Happy Time Preschool & Daycare in Waterloo. I met with Britany Barthel, the director. She has worked at Happy Time for over twelve years and was previously an office administrator for several years. She became the director in December in 2023. Jessica Benter is an on-site supervisor. Ms. Benter was previously a director, and she has a BA in elementary education. She was employed full time with the childcare center from January 1999 until December 2015. She left the position to take a position with the church. She currently works part time for the childcare center doing administrative tasks. Megan Weber is the office assistant. The center employs 45 staff members.

Happy Time Preschool & Daycare operates out of the Cedar Valley Community Church. The program opened in 1972. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. There is a preschool program for two and three-year-olds that operate daily from 8:00 am until 11:30 am. There is a preschool program for four- and five-year-old children that meet daily from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. The children participate in chapel every week. There are currently 110 children enrolled.

The childcare program operates out of the following rooms: infant room (six weeks to 12 months), a room for 12-18 month old children, a room for 18-24 month old children, two rooms for two and three-year-old children, two rooms for three and four-year-old children, and two rooms for four and five-years-old (pre-K). There is one school-age classroom known as Kool Kids. The program no longer provides before and after school care. They care for school-aged children on their days off from school and during the summer. An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio during my visit.

Windows provide natural lighting for the rooms on the main level of the church. The rooms on the lower level use artificial 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 birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table, play dough, 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. Toys and activities in the centers are changed out regularly to prevent the children from getting bored and to engage them in new learning experiences.

Staff members use a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Each room has an activity calendar and newsletter that is sent to parents each month to outline the activities for the month. I observed an activity calendar and lesson plans for every room. The program is Christian based. All age groups attend chapel once each week. Themes are seasonally appropriate, and they focus on a Bible theme. They also focus on either a shape and letter or a color and number. Daily schedules were posted in each room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers posted in each classroom. Teachers also use two-way radios to communicate between rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram near the main door in room 134 and near the outdoor exit in room 132.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in December 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program has radon kits and is testing rooms this coming weekend. A radon mitigation system was added in May 2019. A new boiler was installed a couple months ago and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site on the upper level in the church kitchen, in room 131 and in the infant room. On the lower level in the carbon monoxide detector is in the hallway. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/18/24.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult care Food Program (CACFP) but is required to follow the guidelines. Currently, there are only two items being served for breakfast and on some dates, there is only one component being served for snacks. CACFP requires three separate components be served at breakfast and two separate components be served for snack. I did talk with the cook and Ms. Barthel about this.

Carrie Lindley is the lead cook. A new menu is prepared each month. The program serves breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Some meals/snacks are eaten in the classroom and some are eaten in the cafeteria, depending on the age of the children. Family style is not used. Menus and allergies were posted.

Parents provide the infants formula, baby food and cereal until the children are old enough to eat table food. Bottles are washed in the infant room in a dishwasher.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is a chest freezer, upright freezer, industrial refrigerator, and a milk cooler in the dining area and thermometers were present. There is an industrial refrigerator and an industrial freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. There are two industrial dishwashers and two sinks available to use the three-step method on the larger pans if necessary. There is a large pantry area. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen.

Each classroom also has a refrigerator and thermometers were present.

The center uses Oxivir Tb to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. Please note that when using Oxivir Tb on food surfaces it requires a clean water rinse prior to the children eating off the tables. A couple rooms do prefer to use bleach and water to sanitize food tables.

Cots are used to nap in the rooms for children one-year-old and older. Cribs are used in the infant room and they work on transitioning children to cots before they move to the one-year-old room.

There are multiple bathrooms, sinks and changing tables in the center. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures are posted in all locations. I discussed or observed diaper changing procedures with the classrooms where diaper changes occur. Procedures are being followed.

The center has two fenced in outdoor play areas. Fencing was recently replaced in both areas and a privacy fence was added to the area for the older children. The increased the height of the fence for the younger children. The play area for the younger children is connected to the center and the play area for the older children is across the parking lot. Both areas have climbing equipment and provide adequate shade for the children. The area for the younger children has several playhouses and small slides. The area for the older children has larger climbing equipment, slides, swings, monkey bars, and a climbing wall. The center also has an enclosed area of concrete near the play area for the larger children that can be used for riding toys, chalk drawing and other activities. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning for the older children and turf is used on the area for the younger children.

There is a gym area attached to the cafeteria. There is a large open space for the children to use when they cannot go outside.

The parent information is located inside the office. 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 and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed fifteen children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed for staff files. They were in good condition. One staff member had a current physical but it was not on the mandated HHS employee physical form. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

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

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children in each room. They made the learning environment fun and inviting. Staff members are enthusiastic and it came across in how they taught and interacted with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles within the classroom and know what to expect from one another. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members change out centers routinely so that children do not get bored. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They used timers in the room so children could take equal time playing at popular centers. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Barthel states running the center is very much a team effort. The staff members work together well. Staff members step up with no hesitancy and do what they need to do.

Ms. Barthel states the center is well known in the community and they have a good reputation.

Ms. Barthel states the childcare program is a ministry of the church. They have a great connection and the children attend chapel every Monday.

The program uses the Brightwheel app through the Shared Services project. They use it for billing and to communicate with parents.

The childcare center has been one of the Cedar Valley Church's vital ministries since 1972.

The classrooms are child friendly. They are decorated with children's artwork and learning posters. There are a lot of visual cues in the classrooms.

The program has two vans they use to transport school-age children for field trips during the summer months.

The center has a website.

The program has a secured entrance and cameras in the gym/cafeteria and hallways.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. 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.