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

**Name of Center:** Community United Child Care Centers-Valley Park **Enrollment:** 239 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16036

**Street:** 1026 E Seerley BLVD **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

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

**Director's Name:** Jay Mattson **Phone Number:** 319-277-7303

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

**Date(s) of Visit:** 07-12-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 07-18-2024

**Comments :**

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

**Financial Type:** Profit Non-Profit X 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 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 | 58 | 132 | 106 | 386 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Becky Frost **Date:** 07-23-2024

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 07/12/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Community United Child Care Center-Valley Park in Cedar Falls. I met with Amanda Laity, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Laity has been employed by CUCCC since September 2013 and the on-site supervisor since March 2022. She has a BA in an unrelated field. Nicole Crawford and Lacy Vaughn are the assistant program directors. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers. 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 54 staff members employed by the center.

The program is in a free-standing building. There are computers in the entrance for families to check their children in and out of the program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 239 children enrolled. CUCCC-Valley Park is NAEYC accredited, and it expires on 12/01/28.

The center operates out of fifteen rooms. They have two infant rooms (Disney 1 and Disney 2), two toddler rooms (Circus and Dinosaur), two two-year-old rooms (Dalmatian and Farm), two three-year-old rooms (Ocean and Rainbow), three four and five-year-old rooms (Bear, Panda, and Koala), and four school-aged rooms (Rain Forest, Jungle, Rocket, and Space). An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio during my visit.

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. Many of the rooms are decorated with pictures of the children. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, technology, puppets, geography, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table, play dough, social studies, 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. Most materials were in good condition. In the Disney 1 and 2 rooms there are mats for the children to crawl on that have several tears with exposed foam. Additionally, there was torn furniture in the Circus, Dinosaur and Ocean rooms. Once foam is exposed, they cannot be properly sanitized. These items should be repaired or replaced. 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. The center has a monthly health lesson. Activities are planned around themes. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans and turns them into the office. The rooms provide monthly newsletter to parents to inform parents of activities and important events. Each room has a parent board that provides information. There are also staff boards in the room to remind staff of certain duties and their work schedules.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each of the classrooms and in the kitchen. 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. A lesson plan was available for review in

each of the rooms.

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. Kerri Bottema is the cook. The program uses a four-week rotation of menus. The menus are adjusted for the seasons. Menus and allergies are posted. The children are served their food.

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 classroom using the three-step method. The children's feeding schedules were posted.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial dishwasher to wash dishes. They also have sinks available. The program has an industrial refrigerator, and industrial freezer, three refrigerators and two chest freezers. Thermometers were present. There is also a refrigerator in each of the infant rooms and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen and pantry.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed the teacher prepare the tables for snack and lunch and proper procedures were followed. I also observed staff members clean and disinfect diaper changing tables and procedures were followed. Staff members and children were observed washing their hands and IDPH handwashing procedures are followed.

I observed or discussed diaper changes in each of the rooms and proper procedures were followed.

There are multiple sinks and changing tables in the center. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted in all the necessary areas.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. Fuel burning inspections and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the facility is entirely electric. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/18/24.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside each classroom and in the entrance. 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.

The outdoor play area is divided into four separate fenced-in areas. Three areas have rubber tiles for surface cushioning and have grassy areas. The school age area has artificial turf for surface cushioning.

The area for infants and toddlers has a tree playhouse, a tunnel, water tables, a small piece of climbing equipment with a slide and a stationary piece of climbing equipment. There is a tarp for shade. There is also an overhang on the building that provides shade.

The area for two-year-old children had climbing equipment with a slide, a tunnel and other activities. There are water tables, a stationary climbing toy and a small table with chairs for the children to rest. There is a tarp for shade. There is also an overhang on the building that provides shade.

The area for children ages three through five-years-old has a larger piece of climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing rope and rings. There is a tarp for shade. There is also an overhang on the building that provides shade.

The area for school-aged children has a large piece of climbing equipment with slides, climbing walls, monkey bars, rings, steppingstones, ladders and balance beams. Shade is provided by small coverings on top of the climbing equipment.

Outside of the fenced play areas there is a larger fenced area with a concrete area and a basketball hoop. There is also a very large grassy area. Trees provide shade in this area. Part of this area is naturalistic with wooden blocks and gardens.

The center also has use of a gym. There is approved fall surfacing in the gym. There are balls, hula hoops and other games available. There are basketball hoops, a loft to play on and balance beams with stepping posts.

Staff members were observed to be amazing with the children. They counted children as the left and entered rooms. They were actively engaged in activities and had fun activities to help teach the children colors, counting, etc. They encouraged children to use their imaginations during play and interacted with the children at their level. Staff members had all the children outside for a large period of time to enjoy the weather before it became too warm. Staff members also utilized the gym for gross motor play. Staff members had good reminders for the children to wash their hands. The offered choices and provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time in care.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. Laity states she feels very lucky to have tenured teachers who stick around. She knows staffing has been an issue in several places. She states the staff members are there for the children.

Ms. Laity states they offer benefits to the employees. They offer health, dental and vision insurance, a 401K and paid time off.

Ms. Laity states Community United Child Care is associated with VGM so they receive VGM perks such as use of their gym and a free health clinic.

Ms. Laity states they always have great families.

Ms. Laity states they receive a lot of support from their administration and the staff members are like family and that is what keeps them going.

The program offers a fun summer school-age program with activities and field trips to keep them entertained every day.

There are cameras in each of the rooms and they are in a secured building. The cameras can record.

The center has vans to provide transportation for field trips and to school. The enrolled children attend Hansen Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Orchard Hill Elementary, and Cedar Heights Elementary. The program has five vans.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

CUCCC-Valley Park is NAEYC accredited and it expires on 12/01/28.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Most materials were in good condition. In the Disney 1 and 2 rooms there are mats for the children to crawl on that have several tears with exposed foam. Additionally, there was torn furniture in the Circus, Dinosaur and Ocean rooms. Once foam is exposed, they cannot be properly sanitized. These items should be repaired or replaced.

**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.