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

Name of Center: A to Z Learning Center & Daycare-University Ave **Enrollment:** 120 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22647

Street: 4828 University Ave **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 4828 University Ave, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Chris York **Phone Number:** 319-266-6755

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Smith & Megan Gambell **E-Mail:** atoz@cfu.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-11-2023

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: 07-12-2022

Comments :

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 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	20	12	43	30	105
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-20-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/11/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to A to Z Learning Center and Day Care in Cedar Falls. I met with Megan Gambell, an on-site supervisor. Ms. Gambell started with the center in October 2017, but also worked with the program prior to this. Jennifer Smith is also an on-site supervisor and a teacher in a classroom. Ms. Smith has worked for A to Z since 2001 and she has completed many hours of child development-related training. Ms. Gambell and Ms. Smith have obtained their National Administration Credential (NAC). A to Z Corporation operates four childcare centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. Chris York is the executive director of the centers. She has been involved with childcare for many years and she has been the director of A to Z since it opened in 1991. Ms. York is also NAC certified. The center employs nineteen employees.

The center is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are six weeks old through twelve-years-old. There are currently 120 children enrolled.

The program utilizes the following classrooms: infants (Bear Cubs), two toddler rooms (Alligators are 8-12 months and Ducklings are 12-24 months), two two-year-old rooms (the Monkey room is for the younger two-year-olds and the Teddy Bear room is for the older ones), two three-year-old rooms (the Doodle Bug room is for the younger three-year-olds and the Jungle Friends room is for the older group), four and five-year-olds (Dinosaurs), the Sea Creatures room is currently being used for school-age overflow, and school-aged children (Clowns I and Clowns II). An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were in ratio the day of the visit.

Windows provide natural lighting in most rooms. The Clowns room is located downstairs and has minimal natural light, and the Doodle Bug room is located between rooms but receives natural light from the entrance. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, 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 the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks/Lincoln Logs, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, puppets, computer, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, 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 the child's level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources to develop lesson plans. The curriculum is well-balanced and provides a variety of activities to meet the physical, emotional and developmental needs of the children. Activities are based on themes. The themes are the same throughout the center for the preschool children and younger. The school-aged room has their own themes. Each teacher prepares lesson plans with age-appropriate activities for their class. A lesson plan was available for review in all the rooms.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classrooms or shared by classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado

procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all 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 October 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines at the time. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site on each level. They are in the school-aged room and in the storage room near the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/12/22.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Shari Krull is the full time cook at the center and she has been with A to Z for many years. The center provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. There are four rotating menus. Menus were posted. The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses the three-step method to wash dishes by hand. Allergies are posted in the kitchen. There are two refrigerators, and two upright freezers and thermometers were present. Food items are stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program provides two types of formula. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. The center provides baby food and cereal. Bottles are returned to the kitchen to be washed.

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 are followed. I observed and discussed diaper changing procedures with the staff members. In the Monkey room the staff member was leaving her gloves on through the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

I observed daily sheets in the rooms for children under the age of two-years-old. Staff members should document accurate times for diaper changes.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance near 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.

The outdoor play area consists of four separate fenced in areas. The outdoor play area is divided into sections to serve specific age groups. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning on two of the play areas and they are replenished frequently. The area for the infants and toddlers is a grassy area with some small toys. There is a tree for shade.

The second area is for two-year-olds and three-year-olds. It has woodchips for surface cushioning, but also has a grassy area. There is climbing equipment with slides. There is a picnic table, playhouse and a basketball hoop. The building overhang provides shade.

The third area is for preschool children. Woodchips are used as surface cushioning, but it also has a grassy area. There are a couple pieces of climbing equipment with a tunnel, slides and monkey bars. There is also riding toys, a sandbox, dramatic play pieces and a merry-go-round. There is also a concrete area to play basketball. There are trees for shade.

The school-aged area is mostly grass. There is a concrete basketball court in the area. There is a sandbox. If you are not going to fix the tetherball pole you should remove the rope. Trees provide shade. A picnic table is available.

Staff members were observed to have good interaction with the children. I observed staff members during circle time reviewing colors, shapes and singing with the children. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided praise to the children. They were patient with upset children and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members were on the floor introducing activities to the children. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations. I observed staff members give the children hugs and they were nurturing with the children. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a great summer program for school-aged children. They visit several fun locations almost daily to entertain the children.

I observed staff members go around the center several times to make sure rooms are in ratio.

Ms. Gambell states the entire staff work good as a team. She states people pick up the slack, cover shifts and show up every day to do their jobs.

Ms. Gambell states the staff members care about the children and the families. She states the center has terrific and understanding parents.

Ms. Gambell states that she and Ms. Smith are dependable, responsible and caring.

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expires on 02/28/24.

The center has placed an Alexa speaker in each room so staff members can play child friendly music for the children.

The center provides transportation to the Cedar Falls schools.

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.