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

Name of Center: Clover Patch Day Care **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 45179

Street: 802 Main St **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 615 Washington St, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jon Wiebers **Phone Number:** 319-277-6781

On-Site Supervisor(s): Meagan Slee **E-Mail:** jwiebers@cfcatholicschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-18-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** X **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: 10-18-2022

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	60	0	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 04-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/18/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Clover Patch Daycare in Cedar Falls. I met with Cathy Hagarty, the former on-site supervisor. She was a substitute the day of my visit. Meagan Slee is the current on-site supervisor. I briefly met with her but she was off the day of my visit. I also met with Jon Wiebers, the director and principal at St. Patrick Catholic School. Mr. Wiebers started with the program in August 2022. He has a master's degree in educational administration. Mr. Wiebers was previously the director of two preschool programs where he was the superintendent of the schools. The program employs two primary childcare staff members and three preschool staff members. They also have college students who are childcare staff members. This program had been operating under the Department of Education and became licensed under the Department of Human Services in May 2015.

The center is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves preschool children. There is a preschool class for three-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-11:00 am. There is a preschool class for older three-year-olds and four-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:15-11:00 am. There is a program for four and five-year-old Pre-K children on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:15-3:05 pm. There are currently 47 children enrolled. Children must be enrolled in preschool to attend the daycare program. The program only operates during the school year.

The program primarily operates out of two rooms. One room serves the preschool classes, and one room is for childcare. They also have a room to use for childcare overflow and it also has centers and gross motor activities when they cannot go outside. Children also nap in this room on Wednesdays. An inspection of each room was provided. 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. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the preschool class.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, computers, 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.

Carrie Zehentner is the lead teacher in the preschool room. Ms. Zehentner has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. Kim Johnson-Herbst is the assistant in the preschool class. Peggy Kramer is an additional assistant in the preschool room on Friday afternoon and she also works in the childcare room. Meagan Slee is the primary staff member in the daycare room. Addison Konz was the assistant the day of my visit.

There is one sink in the preschool room. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are two bathrooms for use by the children on the north side of the program. There is one toilet and one sink in each bathroom and handwashing procedures were posted in each location. There is a bathroom in the daycare room that has one toilet, and one sink and procedures were posted. There is also a staff bathroom.

Mats are used to nap and were stored appropriately.

The childcare program provides lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Lunch is provided by St. Patrick Catholic School and delivered to the program. The school is part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The childcare/preschool program are not part of CACFP. Lunch menus and snack menus were posted. Children have the option to bring cold lunches from home as well. Lunch is delivered already dished out for the children in separate containers. The children can eat breakfast at the Circle of Care program at St. Patrick's Catholic School prior to being transported to Clover Patch Day Care.

The program provides a snack to the morning and afternoon preschool class. Snack calendars were available to review. There is a refrigerator and a milk cooler on site and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Dishes are sent back to St. Patrick Catholic School to be put through the dishwasher. There is also a dishwasher on site. The kitchen was observed to be clean and well maintained.

The program uses Clean by Peroxy All Purpose Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner in place of soap and water. They are using R-T-U Quaternary FCS Sanitizer on the food tables. They then use disinfecting wipes to sanitize toys and tables in the classrooms. Please note the disinfecting wipes do require a portable water rinse on food tables.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans and complete the GOLD assessments on the children. Ms. Zehentner uses Scholastic charts to teach the alphabet, numbers and the months of the year. The program is Christian based and Ms. Zehentner uses God Made Me and A Child's First Bible for the religious curriculum. Parent conferences are offered in the spring for the three-year-old children and in the fall and spring for the four and five-year-old children. The daycare portion of the program does not develop lesson plans because they only care for the children who are in preschool, so the children receive the necessary educational activities during that time. Daycare is primarily free play and crafts. A lesson plan was available for review in the preschool room. The length of the study varies depending on the topic and the children's interest level.

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

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in March 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines at that time. The program is going to conduct a radon test now. The annual fuel burning inspection could not be located. Mr. Wiebers was going to locate this. A carbon monoxide detector is in the daycare room on the cubbies and in the entrance of the preschool room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/18/22.

There are over the counter medications in the kitchen that were not labeled. They should either have the name of the child or be labeled as belonging to the center. There was a children's pain and fever medication that expired in September 2023. You must dispose of this because you cannot give children expired medications.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance of the daycare and inside the entrance near the preschool, near the cubbies. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has a fenced in playground area. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is a concrete area with a basketball hoop. A bench and picnic table are available for the children to rest.

I reviewed staff files while I was present. It appears Ms. Kramer must complete the mandated trainings. They were required to be completed within 90 days. She must complete first-aid, CPR, universal precautions, mandatory reporter and Essentials. She should do these immediately.

Staff members have terrific teamwork with one another and the daycare and preschool staff communicate well with each other. Staff members in the daycare room were actively engaged in activities with the children. They introduced centers and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They also hold a circle time where each child is encouraged to participate. In the preschool classroom the children were engaged in circle time. Ms. Zehentner and Ms. Johnson-Herbst are enthusiastic and were actively engaged in dancing and singing with the children. They provide clear and easy to understand directions for the children. It was raining outside so they played with beanbags and did exercises for gross motor activities. Staff members provided the children with praise and offered them choices. The children appeared to enjoy their time in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Zehentner states the children are "super independent". They do a really good job in the classroom and have a lot of fun together.

Ms. Zehentner states all the staff members work well together.

Ms. Hagarty states that Ms. Slee is doing a fine job as the new on-site supervisor this year.

Addison Konz, an assistant in the childcare room, states they provide the children with a lot of free play time.

Ms. Hagarty states they have good communication skills with the parents. They use email, paper reports and face to face communication.

The program is in a secured building.

The children who receive morning childcare at the Circle of Care program at St. Patrick's Catholic School are bussed over to the childcare program. Two staff members from the childcare program ride to the bus over with the children.

The preschool program and the childcare program work well together and assist each other as needed.

The program provides vision screenings through the Lion's Club and hearing screenings through AEA. Central Rivers AEA visits the classroom to work with children who have identified needs.

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

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
There are over the counter medications in the kitchen that were not labeled. They should either have the name of the child or be labeled as belonging to the center. There was a children's pain and fever medication that expired in September 2023. You must dispose of this because you cannot give children expired medications.

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.

An administrative change is being made to name Meagan Slee as the new on-site supervisor. She has been in this role all year, but the program failed to inform me. She must go into I-Power to request the on-site supervisor role.

*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.