Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: College Community ECC-Prairie Hills

Provider No.: 43964

Address: 151 Prairie Hill Ct SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

County: Linn

Director's Name: Kathleen "Kathy" Schulte

On-Site Supervisor: Miranda McDonough

Phone Number: 3198485296

E-Mail: kschulte@crprairie.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/23/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/18/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation

Comments: Accredited +
College Community Prairie View and Hill
Program ID: 728388
Program Valid Dates: 6/2/2022 to 6/1/2027
In operation since: 8/1/1999

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			100	150	250
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

College Community Early Childhood Center (CCECC) has been in operation since 1984 expanding to offer several childcare and preschool opportunities throughout the College Community School District as well as community. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to CCECC - Prairie Hills. CCECC - Prairie Hills is located inside Prairie Hill Elementary School. The CCECC - Prairie Hills license includes childcare for school-age children (primarily located in the school cafeteria outside of school hours), childcare for preschool-age children (primarily located in classroom #504 - full days Monday and afternoons T-F) outside of universal preschool hours and an AK program with childcare (primarily located in classroom #215). During the summer, some full days of emergency closing, and some breaks, this program has the ability to combine with other CCECC locations. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 26 on 3/23/2026.

Multi-site executive director Kathleen "Kathy" Schulte has a MA degree in early childhood elementary education. Ms. Schulte has a plethora of experience working with children including during her work as a school principal and early childhood teacher. Ms. Schulte continues to be a mentor to other programs throughout the community and is part of the College Community School District's safety team. Multi-site school-age coordinator is Whitney Hinrichs. Ms. Hinrichs has experience working with children and participates in professional development. Specific on- site supervisor (OSS) is Miranda McDonough. Ms. McDonough has a BS degree in early childcare and education programming, experience working with children and participates in professional development. Ms. McDonough reported celebrating her 17th year with CCECC.

On 3/23/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in the school cafeteria, room 504 and room 215. The program has some access to the school gymnasium and school outdoor play areas. Program materials are organized in

cabinets and shelves for ease of use. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. There is an on-site school kitchen which is regularly inspected. Meals are prepared and offered through the school lunch program. CCECC - Prairie Hills provides all snack foods and has areas for food storage. On 3/23/2026, areas of study included upcoming St. Patrick's holiday and recycling. Activities observed included circle group discussion and structured and unstructured in-depth purposeful play experiences. Evidence of previous days' learning included the school-age "ECC is Lucky to Have You" child artwork display. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as build cognitive skills, strengthen emotional intelligence, enhance physical coordination, encourage the use of social graces, and establish a lifelong joy of learning. One noteworthy example of child work was observed in room #215. Children were cleverly creating human-size paper "guys" through open crafting and then having them explore the room. Staff encouraged further imaginative play when the paper "guys" were named and needed an area for nap time! During the monitoring visit, routine transitions were observed to go smoothly and included restroom-drink breaks, snack rituals and clean-up procedures. On 3/23/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive behavior interventions when needed, and engaged in programming with the children. Staff were also observed to encourage turn taking and material sharing. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

According to the family handbook the mission of CCECC is "...Guided by high expectations, partnerships with our schools and families, and extensive knowledge of child development, Early Learning Staff provide a broad range of educational opportunities that enable students to enter Elementary School with the skills necessary to ensure quality learning today for tomorrow."

CCECC has the following website for families and the community to access information about their programs: https://www.crprairie.org/.

CCECC - Prairie Hills has achieved and maintained NAEYC accreditation plus. In fall 2022, the College Community School District is one of only eight school districts across the country recognized as a “Lighthouse System” by AASA, The School Superintendents Association. College Community was recognized in the area of: Redesign for Early Learning. College Community Schools received special recognition for Strength in Early Learning Partnerships in Service for Highly Diverse Community.

CCECC is non-profit and operates under a Board of Directors. As of 3/23/2026, ownership and management of CCECC have remained consistent. The seasoned management team includes multi-site executive early childhood principal-director Ms. Schulte, assistant director Erin Hill, administrative assistant Jenna Langhurst, multi-site school-age coordinator Whitney Hinrichs, and OSS. CCECC management has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures. Management acknowledged having much gratitude for all their employees. Management talked about continuing to encourage staff to pursue professional goals. Management discussed continued bonuses, vacation/sick buy-back opportunities, health/wellness benefits, and uniquely created warm areas for daily staff breaks/lunch are all part of the program's operations to support, acknowledge, reward and celebrate the hard work staff do. Management also continues to display their appreciation through staff shout-outs and special food days or luncheons with snacks.

On 3/23/2026, CCECC - Prairie Hills was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining family-program information centers, offering regular newsletters, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Parents are invited to be part of various program-sponsored committees as well as participate in regular surveys encouraging program feedback. CCECC curriculum is designed to help children become lifelong learners. Since the last review, Experiential Learning (e.g. rotating mobile in-depth stations) has been introduced into the preschool-age curriculum. Experiential learning builds on play-based learning by adding intentional reflection and real-world exploration, connecting sensory experiences, outdoor activities, and hands-on tasks to cognitive and social development. Curriculum also continues to incorporate the Iowa Early Learning Standards, Creative Curriculum, Everyday Math Enrichment, Second Step, Jolly Phonics, Heggerty Phonics Awareness, Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports, SPARK after-school, Mind Works and homework assistance. Curriculum is additionally enriched by off-site field trips, guest speakers, theme days, seasonal celebrations, and optional experiences (e.g. Daytime Dancers, Little Sports, running club, lending book library, Book Fairs). Management discussed continued curriculum growth particularly within the newly established Experiential Learning.

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CCECC - Prairie Hills continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. There is an AED on-site. Cleaning checklists and reminders were observed in various areas. On 3/23/2026 and 4/8/2026, management and staff discussed how they continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Management and staff also talked about having much continued support from the school board, board of directors and school district (e.g. school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team) as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs. CCECC management continues presents an annual report to the school board noting accomplishments.

All CCECC childcare programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. CCECC sites have successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please forward the annual all fuel burning appliance inspection report upon receipt.

Power wash the outdoor playground to ensure it's clean and sanitary. Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

As funding (e.g. Growing Iowa Funds-Grant, ECI funds) becomes available, licensing supports increasing Experiential Learning Curriculum materials and furnishings.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 04/10/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.