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

Name of Center: St Edwards Before & After School **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22663

Street: 139 E Mitchell AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 600 Stephen AVEBlessed Sacrament ECC, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Carley Epling **Phone Number:** 319-236-6131

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mary Kreger & Joni Morgensen **E-Mail:** cepling@cvcatholic.org

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **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: 09-09-2020

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 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*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	20	55	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2021 to 11-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-18-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/11/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. Edward Early Childhood Center in Waterloo. Carley Epling is the director of the program, but she was not present. Ms. Epling has a BA in elementary education and fifteen years of experience in a child care center. She started with the program in May 2019 and became the director in October 2019. She obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC) in August 2020. I met with Nancy Jennings, the on-site supervisor for the program. She has been with the Cedar Valley Catholic School system since 1992. There are five staff members employed by the program.

The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 until 8:30 am and 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm. It serves only school-aged children. The program is in St. Edward's Catholic Elementary School. The program moved into the school during the 2020-2021 school year. There are currently 50 children enrolled.

The program operates out of two rooms and have use of the gym. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. Rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, writing, math, science/discovery and music and movement. 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.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and to sign in and out of the program.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted near the main program doors and outdoor exits in the classrooms and gym. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The program uses bathrooms near the child care entrance. The girls' bathroom has two toilets and two sinks and the boys' bathroom has two toilets, two urinals and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are also bathrooms available in the gym. The girls' bathroom has one toilet and one sink and the boys' bathroom has one toilet, one urinal and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2020 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program is conducting a new radon test this month. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in each room. In the room for the older children, it is located under the shelves and in the room for the younger children it is located near the flag. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/09/20.

The center has a complete first-aid kit and it is replenished as necessary.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The children are not provided breakfast, but they are released to the school at 8:00 am if they want to eat breakfast. The children are provided an after-school snack. A snack menu was available for review. Snack is provided by the child care center. The program is only serving one component for snack. CACFP requires two components to be served to the children.

The children eat snack in the school cafeteria. There is a refrigerator and a thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and toys.

The parent information is located on a window where the children enter the daycare. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. They had great teamwork and a great routine when it comes to communicating with one another. Staff members were actively playing with the children. They introduced them to activities and used positive redirection when necessary. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Jennings states she is in her 31st year working at the school so parents have known her for years. She plans to retire at the end of this school year.

Ms. Jennings states the staff members have good interaction with the children and they are engaged in activities.

Ms. Jennings states she tries to do new and fun activities with the children. On Tuesdays they have a “challenge” for the children to play with something new that they not used yet while at the center. On Friday they play “switch” and she picks two children from the older group to move to the younger classroom and two children from the younger classroom to move to the older classroom. This way the older children can teach the younger children new games or activities. Ms. Jennings is also having the children memorize Bible versus that coincide with the school’s theme, “Shine your light”.

Ms. Jennings states they have people return to the program because they are familiar to parents.

Ms. Jennings states they provide parents a safe place for their children to be cared for and parents do not need to worry about them.

Ms. Jennings state they basically have the same staff members every year. Ms. Jennings states their staff members are reliable and hard working. Ms. Jennings states they have low staff turnover and parents appreciate seeing a friendly and familiar face when they drop their children off.

The program has a great system of communication between staff members using two-way radios.

Ms. Jennings states they receive compliments from parents frequently about how much their children enjoy attending the program.

The program is in a secure building.

Ms. Epling obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC) in August 2020. She is certified in first aid and CPR so that she can provide the training to the employees.

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

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

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 remove preschool children from the age group being served. The program is only serving school aged children.

In September 2023 an administrative change is being made to name Mary Kreger and Joni Morgensen as the new on-site supervisors. Ms. Kreger will be the on-site supervisor in the morning and Ms. Morgensen in the afternoon.

*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.