Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care Center

Provider No.: 19196

Address: 724 Lantz Ave, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Jamie Clancy

On-Site Supervisor: Jamie Clancy

Phone Number: 3192681944

E-Mail: director.cvpccc24@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/17/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/11/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	4	19	27	14	64
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/17/26 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Cedar Valley Preschool and Child Care Center in Cedar Falls. I met with Jamie Clancy, the director of the program. She started with the program in May 2020. Ms. Clancy has a BA in psychology and an AA in early childhood education. She was previously a director at another location. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). I met with Linda Jacoby, the previous director and a consultant for the program. Ms. Jacoby has a BA and MA in early childhood education. She was the director of the center from August 1971 until July 1975 and then returned as director in September 2008 and worked until April 2018. She returned as director in January 2019 and remains a consultant since Ms. Clancy was hired as the director. Ms. Jacoby has a variety of experiences in both human services and education. She has 50 years of early childhood experience and extensive community and volunteer collaborations. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). There are 20 staff members employed by the center.

Cedar Valley Preschool and Child Care Center has been open since August 1970 and has been in the current free-standing building since 1974. The program started in a church prior to moving to its current location. An annex was added in 1984. They have completed renovations to the inside and the outside of the center. The renovations took five years. The project focused on being “green” for health and sustainability. They added insulation and cement board siding that provided a fifty percent reduction in the heating bill. The center receives a lot of community support. The center put a new roof on in June 2025 and they replaced regress windows at the rear of the building.

The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are 18 months old through third grade. A preschool program is offered during the school year and the center is involved with the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) in a self-study manner for program improvement and certification planning. The

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

preschool class meets Monday through Friday. Stacy Speaker is the lead teacher for the three-year-old preschool class and Elizabeth "Liz' Ayard is the lead for the four-year-old preschool class. The center works with Central Rivers AEA and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) to provide support to children with identified needs. There are currently 69 children enrolled in the program.

The program operates out of the following rooms: Cubbies (18 months until 24 months old), Teddies (two-year-olds), Koala (three-year-olds), Panda (four and five-year-olds), and Sun Bears (school age). An inspection of each room was completed. 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. The children's birthdays were posted.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, STEM, 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. Most materials were in good condition. There is a broken plastic bin in the school age room that needs replaced. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

The Cubbies room has one sink and one diaper changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There is a sink in the Teddies room. Handwashing procedures must be posted. The Teddies room either uses the diaper changing table in the Cubbies room or they go to the upstairs bathroom. I discussed a diaper change with the staff members and proper procedures are followed. However, the Teddies room is not cleaning and disinfecting the table correctly. They were only sanitizing the table between diaper changes and disinfecting the table after doing several. Changing tables must be cleaned and disinfected following all diaper changes.

There is a bathroom on the main level that has an area for the boys and for the girls. There are a total of six toilets and four sinks. There is one diaper changing table in this area as well. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans and supplemental materials are added. Each teacher develops lesson plans and activities are planned around themes. The length of the theme/unit depends on the topic and the children's interest level. The center participates in the Deveraux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) evaluation program to support the children's social and emotional growth and development. They also use the Ages and Stages III evaluation tool for skill development. They also documented children's growth through Nature Explore experiences as part of their United Way growth tracking.

The program continues their visiting curriculum programs: music, Storytelling, Puppets, music and P.E.T-P.A.L.S. They continued new Loose Parts activities to encourage building and creativity, expanding on knowledge of STEM processes.

They also have planned and implemented field trips for children ages three through ten. The program has secured transportation for field trips through Cedar Falls School bus transportation during the summer months. They added a new field trip to Maples Lanes Bowling Alley.

The center has continued the "Kindness Curriculum" supporting kindness, encouraging friendships and building resilience. They have proceeded with a Spanish curriculum led by a bi-lingual lead teacher, now going beyond basics like color, numbers, greetings to theme related concepts. They have a second bi-lingual teacher so the younger teacher can learn Spanish.

The program secured the Nature Explorer Certified Outdoor Classroom certification for the 15th year. They are the only Nature Explorer Certified Outdoor Classroom in Black Hawk County. The outdoor classroom is part of the center's curriculum.

The program continued their "mini Ragbrai" week with crafts, games, map making, poster creating for the neighborhood, bike safety presentation, food stations, picnic and much more. They have made this an annual celebration.

The program is continuing their partnership with Head Start even though Head Start lost their wraparound services due to lack of funding. The center is saving four slots for children who attend the voluntary preschool program at North Cedar Elementary School in the afternoon. North Cedar Elementary is located across the street from the center. Head Start is going to help parents with the Child Care Assistance (CCA) paperwork.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The center partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide the children with hearing screenings and the Lion's Club provides vision screenings. I-Smile provides an annual free dental screening. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) also provide support.

The center has a program where they save two spots in the center for children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care. One spot for a three-year-old spot and one four or five-year-old spot will be available for them.

There is a telephone in the kitchen and emergency phone numbers were posted. Emergency phone numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in each room. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Daily schedules were posted in most rooms. Post a daily schedule in the Panda/Koala room. Current lesson plans were available for review in the rooms.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The program also practices quarterly lockdown drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in March 2026 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program does have a radon mitigation system. Young Plumbing and Heating conducted an annual inspection. The building is completely electric. A carbon monoxide detector was present in the Teddies room and near the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/11/26.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two and to communicate with all families.

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. Tara Thien is the cook. The center uses a four week rotation of menus. Menus were posted. Children who are three years old and older eat in the multi-purpose room. The younger children eat in their rooms. Family style is used for the olde children and staff members assist the younger children. All dishes are washed in an industrial dishwasher in the kitchen. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. The program has two industrial refrigerators and an industrial freezer. There were thermometers present.

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

On the playground, they have a vine house, a castle rock climber, a sandbox with a cover, a log tunnel and a riding path in the area. They have several centers available to the children which includes, library, music and movement, blocks, art building, science and sensory tables. They have a Butterfly Garden which is maintained by Master Gardener volunteers, and they have several bird feeders; they have "totables" to take in and out as needed; they have several cedar vegetable garden planters and two compost bins. The program has had to remove ash trees due to emerald ash borer disease but have planted a new tree. The program used the wood from the removed trees to create "tree cookies" and stump seats. The outdoor area has a large shade shelter. Staff members receive ongoing training on the Nature Explorer program.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entry way at the entrance of the center. 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.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There are several lead teachers that have longevity with the childcare program and they have a strong administrative team. Staff members are good at communicating with one another in the classrooms and I observed great teamwork. Staff members have good routines in the classrooms for the children. Staff members were enthusiastic. I observed them doing fun activities with the children. When staff members spoke to the children, they got down on the child's level and talked with them in a calm tone. Staff members gave the children clear and easy to understand directions. They were patient and provided the children with praise. They used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members had the children outside to enjoy the weather. I enjoyed watching the interaction.

The program has an IQ4K level of 3 that expires on 08/31/27.

The program has three staff members on the WAGES program. They just had one staff member finish her contract with

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

TEACH.

The center maintained a strong, well trained, consistent, and compassionate staff. Ms. Clancy states this is so important to the children's social-emotional well-being.

The program secured the Nature Explorer Certified Outdoor Classroom certification for the 15th year.

The center has continued the "Kindness Curriculum" supporting kindness, encouraging friendships and building resilience.

The program continues their visiting curriculum programs: music, Storytelling, Puppets, music and P.E.T-P.A.L.S.

The center increased volunteer service hours dramatically from 103 to 114 volunteers providing 3,191 hours of service.

The center scheduled two professional development days per year for staff members.

The center continued assiduously seeking means of raising staff pay and increasing new regular job "perks".

They have expanded the HHS book with director's classes information.

They planned for the Annual Fourth of July Parade and they continued their "Mini Ragbrai" incorporating summer fun, exercise, and safety.

The center has a mentorship program for childcare programs and they developed an on-line and in print Procedures Book template with a wide variety of resources (examples of Board, volunteers, services, collaborative agencies, yearly overview of programming plans). They have maintained and expanded their Procedures Book.

Encourage children to use their resilience skills by engaging in calming outdoor activities (exploring, gardening, feeding the birds, etc.) deep breathing, taking a self-initiated break in the quiet corner, asking for help, getting a big hug, and more.

They proved staff with "Stewards of Children" sexual abuse training from Family and Children's Council.

The center monitored their "waiting list" through a spreadsheet to better track opportunities so they can contact families as openings occur.

The center is supported by an active, engaged Board that share their insights and talents well beyond Board meetings, offering staff training, legal advice, financial advice, educational advice, community connections and programs for the children.

The center has maintained strong collaborative relationships with the grant foundations who graciously and generously provide a portion of their funding.

The center broadened their diverse staffing. They have 20 staff members, male and female, ages 17-77, Caucasian, Latino, Eastern Indian, African American, and Chinese.

The center expanded greatly their community financial support-restaurant fundraisers, local civic organizations, business "in-kind" item donations, individual donations, for their silent auction-to replace their aging roof through matching funds with Black Hawk County Gaming Association.

The center expanded their non-profit collaborations with Cedar Falls Historical Society, Oddfellows, Women's Amvets, and the Eagles.

The center secured a webmaster to assist in updating their website and providing ongoing aid.

Continued strong support for staff training beyond the HHS and CACFP requirements to build additional competencies and their professional portfolios.

The center received verification that the staff's children will be able to continue to access their program through CCA

funding.

They updated their website.

Received ongoing grant support to provide a summer scholarship program for eligible school age children (ages 6 through third grade).

Continued ongoing overall excellent building and grounds maintenance.

Engaged preschoolers in handwashing experiments with Black Hawk County Health Nurse.

Created increasing sense of discovery, explorations, and awe through the Nature Explore Certified Outdoor Classroom experiences spilling over to families through the children's enthusiasm (bringing fresh fruit and vegetable scraps for composting, telling their families about what they are growing for their lunches and snacks, being proud of their sense of ownership in the jobs they have, etc.).

They installed a new outdoor spigot that is more accessible for watering the vegetable garden, butterfly garden, front planters, and Water Days' play.

Continued working closely with numerous community agencies to provide family referrals, as needed and/or required.

Continued an ongoing fund for assistance in repairing/replacing large capital investments, such as their new roof, large appliance, etc.

Engaged two UNI Social Work student interns for the spring and summer semesters. They provided 440-480 service hours apiece. They are exploring opportunities to strengthen/expand UNI collaborations, especially the social work internship program.

The center increased opportunities for family gatherings. They continued their "Mini Ragbrai", family tours, annual summer parade and one Family Fun Nights (fall).

The center purchases locally raised fresh fruit and vegetables from local farmer market and fresh milk and butter from Hansen's Dairy Farm.

Shared support information and suggestions for roof replacement with other child care centers

Collaborated with UNI Business Department to create their new Strategic Plan for 2026-2028. The new plan has been created.

Added a new field trip to Maple Lanes Bowling Alley.

Modified new "loose parts" activities to encourage building and creativity, expanding on knowledge of STEM processes.

Documented children's growth through Nature Explore experiences as part of their United Way growth tracking (also includes staff training tracking, children's social-emotional growth though Deveraux Early Childhood Assessment, and skill development through Ages and Stages 3 Assessment).

Continued their bus transportation contract with Cedar Falls Schools for summer field trips.

Proceeded with Spanish curriculum led by their bi-lingual lead teacher now going beyond the basics like colors, numbers, and greeting to theme related concepts. They added another bi-lingual staff member allowing for the youngest children to also gain Spanish language learning.

Explored new funding opportunities.

Increased "Giving Tuesday" donations by 55%.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Received new Candid Platinum status for verification to donors of our responsible stewardship.

Continued annual free dental (I-Smile), vision (Lion's Club with Iowa Hospital Schools) screenings, and hearing screenings through Central Rivers AEA.

Shared ongoing photography of the children with families on Brightwheel, expressing their daily engagement and joy.

GOALS:
Continue to plan for IQ4K level 4 rating.

To continue to strive for a "Best Practice" quality program; seeking/expanding/enhancing opportunities (ex: staff training, board training, new resources for referrals as needed, etc.).

To maintain and increase strong community collaborations through agencies, fundraisers and volunteers.

Continue to pursue additional volunteer connections. Volunteers are an integral component of their program allowing them to conserve and reinvest funds in the program.

Continue the pursuit and development of financial resources-donations, grant proposals, in-kind support.

Maintain an excellent, engaged indoor/outdoor learning environment where children are nourished, educated and nurtured.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
I discussed a diaper change with the staff members and proper procedures are followed. However, the Teddies room is not cleaning and disinfecting the table correctly. They were only sanitizing the table between diaper changes and disinfecting the table after doing several. Changing tables must be cleaned and disinfected following all diaper changes.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Clancy her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Clancy states they make sure staff members understand they can bring the children to the office anytime so the child can calm down. She keeps calming toys in the office so they can take their mind of things. If Ms. Clancy or Ms. Jacoby are in rooms they can trade places with the staff member. Ms. Clancy states they try to work with the school so they are using the same techniques to keep children on task and calm. They also utilize Central Rivers AEA. Ms. Clancy states when she hires staff she tells them she will always be there to help. They try to manage the child in the room first. They support one another.

Ms. Clancy states she monitors the situation by listening and by visiting all the rooms. She states staff members will tell her if they see a staff member getting frustrated.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 08/25/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.