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

Name of Center: Community United Child Care Centers-Nordic Drive **Enrollment:** 106 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22887

Street: 5109 Nordic DR **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 1026 E Seerley BLVD, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jay Mattson **Phone Number:** 319-266-4477

On-Site Supervisor(s): Patricia "Trisha" Townsend **E-Mail:** admined@cuccc.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: 09-01-2021

Comments : The new addition was approved by the fire marshal on 07/14/23.

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	92	52	102	38	284
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:** 08-07-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/10/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Community United Child Care Center (CUCCC)-Nordic Drive in Cedar Falls. I met with Trisha Townsend, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Townsend has a BA in psychology and has been employed since August 2009. She started as the on-site supervisor in September 2019. Leah Seible is her assistant and she is in charge when Ms. Townsend is away from the center. Ms. Seible started with the program in August 2006. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers (CUCCC). The non-profit corporation operates three child care centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. CUCCC was formed on 07/01/93 and all the sites are handicap accessible. There are 44 staff members employed by this center.

The program is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through preschool children. There are currently 106 children enrolled, but it has the capacity to serve 200 children. CUCCC-Nordic Drive is NAEYC accredited (which expires 06/01/23) and has a Quality Rating System level of 4 which expires on 06/30/23.

The center operates out of the following rooms: two infant rooms (Butterfly and Caterpillar), two rooms for 12–24-month-olds (Firefly and Bumble Bee), two rooms for two-year-olds (Beach and Lady Bug), two rooms for three-year-olds (Zoo and Farm) and two rooms for four and five-year-olds (Frog and Outback). The Outback room is currently not being used. An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio.

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 rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and several had pictures of the families. There is an area for circle time in the rooms. Pictures of staff members are located outside each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, 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 child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number were posted in all rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits. 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 September 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in the hallway. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/01/22.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Handwriting Without Tears is also used in the preschool room. Staff members in each room do observations. DECA assessments and Brigance assessments are completed. GOLD assessments are also completed. Activities are typically developed around weekly themes/studies, but they may last longer depending on the topic and the children's interest level. Lesson plans are developed by the lead teachers in each classroom. A lesson plan was available for review in each room.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Tabitha Frisch is the cook. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The program uses a four-week rotation of menus. The children are being served their meals. Menus were posted and allergies were confidentially posted.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial sanitizer for the dishes. There is a sink to wash the dishes and then they are placed in the sanitizer. The program primarily uses disposable products. There are three refrigerators and an upright freezer. Thermometers were present. There is one handwashing sink and handwashing procedures were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen.

In the infant room, the program provides formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are prepared in the classroom and washed in the classroom using the three-step method in the Butterfly room. In the Caterpillar room the bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized. There are two refrigerators in the Butterfly room and thermometers were present. There are also two freezers in the Butterfly room for breast milk. Thermometers were present. There is a refrigerator and a freezer in the Caterpillar room. Thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize food table and disinfect diaper changing tables. The top of one of the diaper changing tables in the Butterfly room is starting to tear and cannot be properly sanitized. I would recommend covering the top with a mat that can be cleaned and disinfected until the top can be repaired or you can purchase a new changing table.

I observed or discussed diaper changes in the rooms where they occur. In the Firefly room the staff member was leaving her gloves on through the entire process. I explained to her that the gloves must be removed prior to the new diaper and dressing the child because the gloves are considered soiled. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

In the Lady Bug room, there were medication authorization forms that were not signed by parents for diaper creams. Please get these signed.

There were numerous bathrooms in the classrooms and in the center and handwashing procedures were posted. The diaper changing tables had changing procedures posted. Cots are used to nap for the older children and cribs for the infants.

The outdoor play area is divided into four separate fenced areas. One area is for school-aged children. The program no longer provides care for school age children so this area is not used. All four areas have rubber tiles for surface cushioning. A couple of the rubber tiles in the space for two and three-year-old children are starting to bubble and are considered tripping hazards. These should be replaced or repaired. Shade is provided by trees and there were tarp shade structures in the infant/toddlers, two-year-old and school-age areas. There are trees for shade in the four and five-year-olds.

The area for infants and toddlers has a small piece of climbing equipment, tree playhouse and pushing toys.

The additional three areas serve the other age groups. I observed sensory tables, climbing equipment with slides and several other activity areas, including various climbing apparatus, rings and monkey bars. There is a small grassy area. The center has riding toys to take outside and helmets are used.

The program also has use of a gym when they are unable to go outside.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. 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. Staff members were on the floor engaged in activities in all the rooms. Staff members maintained positive conversations with the children and provided them with praise. Positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members assisted children with handwashing. They introduced activities to the children and used play as an opportunity to teach the children about colors and counting. Staff members encouraged the children to use their imaginations. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Townsend states they have fantastic staff members. Everyone is a team player and they work hard. They have a great relationship with families and they generally love and enjoy being with the children. She states the staff members have been the backbone to their program.

Ms. Townsend states they have a strong curriculum. They use STEM and participate in STEM activities, Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources. Ms. Townsend states the staff members follow their curriculum all day, every day.

Ms. Seible states she feels the staff members and the family relationships are their strength.

Ms. Townsend states the center is getting a new addition to enlarge the program. They are excited and everyone has been flexible.

CUCCC-Nordic Drive is NAEYC accredited (which expires 06/01/23) and has a Quality Rating System level of 4 that expires on 06/30/23. The center received The Courier Best of the Best Recognition for the best child care center in 2020.

There are cameras in each of the rooms and in the hallways.

The center's hallways are decorated with the children's art projects.

The center partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. The center also cooperates with Early Access to provide support services to families for infants through children two-years-old.

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

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 increase the capacity of the center to 284 children. The center recently completed an addition to the building that was approved by the fire marshal on 07/14/23. The center began using the space on 07/24/23.

*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.