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

Name of Center: CVCS Early Childhood Program **Enrollment:** 148 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22502

Street: 3225 W 9th St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 3225 W 9th St , Waterloo, IA, 50701

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

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cherith Osterling, Chelsea Smith & Krystin Brunner **E-Mail:** cepling@cvcatholic.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-27-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-09-2024

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 08-12-2024

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X 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*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	57	41	93	0	191
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-28-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/27/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to CVCS Early Childhood Program in Waterloo. I met with Carley Epling, the director of the program. Ms. Epling has a BA in elementary education and fifteen years of experience in a previous childcare center. She started with the program in May 2019 and became the director in October 2019. Ms. Epling completed the National Administrator Credential (NAC) training. Cherith Osterling is an on-site supervisor for the program and works with child registration and children files. She started with the program in December 2019. She worked at a previous childcare center for nine years. Chelsea Smith became an on-site supervisor in August 2023. She works on the business items and provides curriculum support to staff members. She also provides support to staff members who have children in their classrooms with behavioral concerns. Krystin Brunner is also an on-site supervisor. She started this role in December 2024. The program employs 48 staff members. This is a program that had been operating under the Department of Education and became licensed under the Department of Human Services in March 2015.

The program operates out of Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School (BMAP). They moved to this location in August 2024. It is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm and serves children infants through school-aged children. The school-aged children will only be present during the summer months. There are two licensed three-year-old preschool classes that meet Monday through Thursday from 8:15-11:15 am. Childcare is provided in these classrooms before and after preschool.

Typically, the program operates out of the following rooms: infants (birth until approximately 12-14 months), Caterpillars room (young toddlers 12-18 months), Butterflies room (older toddlers 18-24 months), Ladybugs room (two- and three-year-old), Fireflies room (two and three-years-old), two three-year-old preschool/childcare rooms and two four-year-old before and after preschool childcare rooms.

An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in most rooms. One of the four-year-old classrooms has artificial 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, numbers and colors. The children's birthdays were posted. The rooms were also decorated with pictures of the children and their families. There is an area for circle time in some of the rooms.

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

In the infant room there was an infant that had a pacifier with a long bead strand. These are not allowed in childcare. If the strand were to break the beads would be a choking hazard for the children.

The three-year-old preschool classes use Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Jolly Phonics is also used. They complete assessments and have quarterly goals they must meet. The childcare classrooms primarily use the Active Learners

curriculum to develop lesson plans. They also utilize other resources. Lesson plans were available for review in all rooms. The program recently changed their curriculum and added lessons on social-emotional development. They are using red choices and green choices in the classrooms. Each room has a chart with pictures of red and green choices. Administration is meeting with staff members and teaching them ways to deal with behaviors, emotions and self-regulation. This was reflected on their lesson plans. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

There was a phone in all the classrooms and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center.

I reviewed the documentation of fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in July 2022 at the Blessed Sacrament site. Results were within EPA guidelines. Ms. Epling is going to order radon kits to test their new site's classrooms.

The new location is completely geothermal so fuel burning inspections are not required. There is one classroom in the older part of the school. This area uses a boiler so you must get an annual fuel burning inspection for this classroom. A carbon monoxide detector is not necessary for most of the center because it is geothermal. You must place a carbon monoxide detector in the classroom that uses a boiler. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/12/24.

The program gets lunch and snacks from the Cedar Valley Catholic School. There is a kitchen and cafeteria on site. The school is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. A new menu is prepared each month. If children want to eat breakfast, they must bring it from home prior to 7:30 am.

Children also have the option of bringing meals from home. For children who are not yet school-aged (Kindergarten and older) and who bring lunch from home, staff members review what is brought for the children and supplement as necessary so that the CACFP guidelines are met.

In the infant room, parents provide formula, baby food and cereal. The center provides snacks and table food. Bottles are washed in the room using the three-step method.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher. Thermometers were present in the industrial refrigerator and freezer on site in the kitchen.

There is a refrigerator in one of the four-year-old rooms and in the infant room. Thermometers were present. The food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen. There was cereal in the Ladybugs room that was rolled up in the box. I spoke with staff members about placing opened food in sealed containers. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

The four-year-old children eat lunch and snacks in the cafeteria. The three-year-old children eat lunch in the cafeteria and snacks in their classrooms. The other children eat in their classrooms.

There are bathrooms located in the hallway of the program. The girls' bathroom has four toilets and a birdbath sink with four spots to wash hands. The boy's bathroom has two urinals, two toilets and a birdbath sink with four spots to wash hands. Each bathroom also has a changing table. Handwashing procedures and diaper changing procedures were posted.

There are also bathrooms in the cafeteria area. The girls' bathroom has four toilets and a birdbath sink with four spots to wash hands. The boy's bathroom has three urinals, one toilet and a birdbath sink with four spots to wash hands. Handwashing procedures were posted.

Most rooms had a sink. The rooms that had sinks had handwashing procedures posted.

The program is using Hillyard QT3 Sanitizer to sanitize their food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I discussed and observed diaper changing procedures with staff members. Proper procedures are being followed in most rooms. The infant room staff was not washing the hands of children with soap and water who could not yet hold their heads up. I discussed using the three step method of washing hands for these children. In the butterfly room the staff member left their gloves on throughout the process. I discussed removing the gloves with the dirty diaper because they are considered soiled. Both rooms corrected how they did diaper changes after our discussion. This will not be cited.

Medication authorization forms are completed through the Brightwheel app. Ms. Epling can go back to review information.

The program is using the Brightwheel app for daily sheets for the children under age two. The app is also used to communicate with all parents.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant room. Children begin using cots to nap when they turn one-year-old room. Cots and bedding were stored appropriately.

There are four two fenced in playground areas. The playgrounds have no equipment. They ae grassy areas and staff members take items out for the children to use.

I would recommend the school schedule time for the school-aged children to use the gym for gross motor play on days when weather does not allow them to go outside. Gross motor play is an important part of children's development.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the hallway. 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.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twenty children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed five staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

This center is well organized they have great teamwork. Ms. Epling has been with the program for several years and provides great leadership. Staff members have a terrific relationship with one another and that carries over to the care of the children. I observed staff members talk with the children about using their words to problem solve and about taking turns. Rooms are decorated with several pictures of the children, their families and art projects. Staff members provide the children with a good routine and used play to teach the children subjects such as colors and counting. Staff members offered the children choices. They were patient and nurturing with children who have difficult behaviors at times. Staff members were on the floor with the children. They were actively engaged in play and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. Staff members had good knowledge of the children's developmental needs and social-emotional needs. I always enjoy visiting this program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
This past year has been a testament to our team's resilience and dedication. One of our most significant accomplishments was successfully moving into a building that was not originally designed for childcare in just one week. Despite the challenges, our team worked tirelessly to set up the space and ensure it was ready for the open house. This monumental effort allowed us to continue providing quality care for our children without interruption. Our adaptability and teamwork were on full display as we turned a difficult situation into an opportunity to grow stronger as a center.

STRENGTHS:
Our team's ability to unite during challenging times is one of our greatest strengths. Sharing a building with a junior high school has brought unique obstacles, but we have worked collaboratively to ensure that our kids receive the best possible care. Our team's commitment to fostering a safe, supportive and nurturing environment is unwavering. We excel in communicating, problem-solving, and staying focused on what matters most: the well-being and development of the children in our care.

GOALS:
As we look ahead, our primary goal is to address the growing need for social and emotional development among our children. With an increase in challenging behaviors and a noticeable lack of social and problem-solving skills, we've made the decision to adapt our curriculum. Moving forward, we are prioritizing programs that support both our staff and the children in managing big emotions and learning constructive ways to cope when they are upset. By focusing on these critical skills, we aim to help children develop the tools they need for success both now and in the future.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.