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

**Name of Center:** University Community Childcare Inc **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16802

**Street:** 2623 Bruner DR **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

**Mailing Address:** 2623 Bruner DR, Ames, IA, 50010

**Director's Name:** Stacy Lehman **Phone Number:** 515-294-9838

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Angi Esser/Tracy Yetter/Laura Martin **E-Mail:** univcc@iastate.edu

**Date(s) of Visit:** 02-19-2025

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-01-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-22-2024

**Comments :** Fire Inspections due at least every three years; completed by Ames Fire Dept--Jason Ziph

**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 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 | 41 | 18 | 47 | 19 | 125 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 5

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 03-05-2025

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 2-19-25; and the assistant director was present for the visit.

University Community Childcare first opened in 1971. It is a center for the child care needs of Iowa State University faculty and staff and also for Iowa State students. They also offer a separate preschool program for families in the community. UCC is a year round center that provides care for infants up to and including school age children. Hours of operation are 7:00 am-5:30 pm. They moved to this location that was built specifically for child care in 2004.

Stacy Lehman is the director. Stacy has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education as well as Sociology. Stacy has been a director at another center and has several years experience in a daycare setting. Angi Esser is the assistant director and has worked in childcare several years, as well as having prior experience as a CCR&R consultant. There are two On-Site Supervisors, Tracy Yetter and Laura Martin. Both have several years of experience in a childcare setting. All four meet qualifications for their positions.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations/activities: . The center uses the Creative Curriculum and the pro-care application to sign-in, however maintains point sheets for the children to communicate with parents. Each classroom was in ratio and offered a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. Staff were observed to engage the children in group activities and also to provide supportive assistance with free-playing activities. Good handwashing technique was observed in use. The children appeared content and staff were responsive to the children. This center has new tiles and some new countertops in some of the rooms this past year.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff who crafts menus. This center participates with the CACFP food program and menus reflect this participation. The meals/snacks are served family style in the classrooms. The kitchen was undergoing remodel during this visit and the center is using another room as a make shift kitchen. The children do not have access to this room. The temporary kitchen was clean and menus were posted.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securely in the office. Emergency medications are in the classrooms stored securely. Handwashing signs are posted. There are first aid kits available. Tornado and Fire emergency exit plans were posted. Emergency drills were documented to have been completed as required. Radon testing was completed by ISU 12/20/23, with results all below 4.0. The university also inspects and maintains the HVAC system (last inspected 12/8/23). There are carbon monoxide detectors located in classrooms and general use areas of the center.

Playground: The playground is snow covered during this visit; however the playground is enclosed with chain link fencing and surfaced with grass, cement and wood chips. There is natural shade and small play structures. The playground is divided into separate play areas by age. Playground checks had been documented completed as required.

Transportation: NA (occasional use of Cy-Ride)

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporting; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license , fire/tornado exit plans and non-smoking signs were as required. Five staff files were reviewed and seven child files were reviewed; all containing the required information. This center has a disaster plan and discussion took place with regard to have staff trained with this upon hire and annually.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center has been NAEYC accredited since 2000. The center has attained Level 5 on IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on).

The center has been involved with the TEACH program. Currently, there are no staff in the TEACH program, however staff are interested. Staff participate in the WAGES program.

The center has many long term staff, including staff that have obtained associates or bachelor's degree.

The staff work well together and are professional and the center has a strong working relationship and partnership with the university.

The center will close two days during the year for Professional Development days for staff.

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

There were not aspect of operation that fall below the standards reviewed.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The center participates in the CACFP (food program) and their menus reflect they are following the guidelines.

Radon testing was completed 12/20/23 and all results were below 4.0.

The furnace is inspected yearly by the University.

*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.