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

Name of Center: Community United Child Care Centers-Nordic Drive **Enrollment:** 127 **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): Katherine Thiessen **E-Mail:** admined@cuccc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-03-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **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: 05-29-2024

Comments : The new addition was approved by the fire marshal on 07/14/23. The second part of the renovations were approved by the fire marshal on 05/29/24.

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	92	52	102	38	284
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-07-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/03/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Community United Child Care Center (CUCCC)-Nordic Drive in Cedar Falls. I met with Katherine "Kat" Thiessen, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Thiessen has been working at another CUCCC site since October 2022 and started her new position as the on-site supervisor at this site on 10/16/23. Ms. Thiessen has a BS in an unrelated field. She has previous experience in childcare and was previously the director at another childcare site. I also met with Leah Seible, Ms. Thiessen's assistant program director. She is in charge when Ms. Thiessen 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 childcare centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. CUCCC was formed on 07/01/93 and all the sites are handicap accessible. There are 43 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 school-age children. There are currently 127 children enrolled, but it has the capacity to serve 229 children. CUCCC-Nordic Drive is NAEYC accredited, which expires 06/01/28.

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), two rooms for four and five-year-olds (Frog and Outback) and one school-age room (Jungle). 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.

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. In the Jungle, Zoo, and Farm rooms there were electrical cords within reach of children. The cords must be secured so the children do not have access to them.

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 throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Staff members in each room do observations. DECA assessments and Brigance assessments are 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.

Daily sheets are maintained in the infant, toddler, two and three-year-old rooms.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2024 and is good for two years. Results have not been received yet but previous radon testing results were within EPA guidelines. The center was made completely electric when they added the addition and made the renovations to the older part of the center so a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal for the new addition was completed on 07/14/23 and the second part of the renovations were approved by the fire marshal on 05/29/24.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Sidney Wilkening 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 dishwasher. The program primarily uses disposable products in the classrooms. There are three refrigerators, two upright freezers and a chest 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 classrooms using the three-step method. There are refrigerators in the Butterfly, Caterpillar and Firefly rooms and thermometers were present. There are also freezers in the Butterfly and Caterpillar rooms for breast milk. Thermometers were present.

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

I observed or discussed diaper changes in the rooms where they occur. Proper procedures are followed.

There were numerous bathrooms throughout the center in the classrooms and handwashing procedures were posted in most locations. Handwashing procedures must be posted in one of the bathrooms in the Frog room, in the bathroom of the Ladybug room, and in the bathroom of the Farm room (it is posted near the door). Handwashing posters must also be posted in the classrooms of the Zoo and Farm rooms. Most diaper changing tables had diaper changing procedures posted near them. You must post them by the changing table in the Ladybug room. Cots are used to nap for the older children and cribs for the infants.

There is a child on prescription medication in the Caterpillar room. There was not a notation on the medication authorization form for everyday the medication is to be given. For prescription medications you must provide documentation for everyday the child is to be given the medication. This includes documenting why the medication was not given. For example, the child was absent. I explained this to the teacher in the classroom and to Ms. Thiessen and Ms. Seible and believe this will be corrected.

The outdoor play area is divided into four separate fenced areas with equipment and there is a fenced in grassy area for children to use. All four areas with equipment have rubber tiles for surface cushioning. 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-old area and school-age area.

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

The two-year-old area has a piece of climbing equipment with slides for the children. There is a picnic table for the children to rest.

The four and five-year-old area has a piece of climbing equipment with slides, rings, monkey bars and a climbing wall. There were sensory tables, blocks and a small grassy area. A picnic table is available for the children to rest.

The area for school-aged children has a large piece of climbing equipment that offers a variety of activities.

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, childcare consultant information and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members are actively engaged with the children in fun and educational activities. I saw staff members give children

reminders to wash their hands and assisted them when necessary. Staff members provide clear and easy to understand directions and used repetition as a teaching method. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. They were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Staff members were flexible with their schedules and allowed children to share stories. They were nurturing and were observed sitting on the floor with children, holding children on their laps and rocking children. They spoke with the children about sharing and taking turns. The children appeared to enjoy their time in the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Thiessen states the center keeps growing in a positive way. They are flexible with parents and communicate with parents on how to make the center work for their children.

Ms. Thiessen states the staff members seem to enjoy their jobs.

Ms. Seible states the center is in a good place with their lead teachers. They are all fairly seasoned.

Ms. Seible states they work with good families and have low conflict.

The center has a new van. They transport school-aged children to Aldrich Elementary.

Ms. Seible states they had an amazing summer with the children. The school-aged children took field trips twice each week and they had presenters visit the center. The school-aged children also became reading buddies for the younger children in the center.

The center has completed their addition and renovations to the older part of the center. It looks amazing.

The center is in a secured building and there are cameras in the rooms and the hallways.

Ms. Thiessen does a monthly checklist in each room to make sure it is safe and clean.

The center does a monthly health lesson in each room.

Each room has a monthly newsletter for parents and each room has a welcome letter introducing the lead teacher and other classroom information.

The program is NAEYC accredited with an expiration date of 06/01/28.

The program added a fenced in grassy playground area for the children and they have a gym for indoor gross motor activities.

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

N/A

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.

*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.