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

Name of Center: Community United Child Care Centers-Valley Park **Enrollment:** 242 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16036

Street: 1026 E Seerley BLVD **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:** 319-277-7303

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amanda Laity **E-Mail:** admined@cuccc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-17-2023

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:** 06-06-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-23-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit Non-Profit X 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	90	58	132	106	386
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-24-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/17/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Community United Child Care Center-Valley Park in Cedar Falls. I met with Amanda Laity, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Laity has been employed by CUCCC since September 2013 and the on-site supervisor since March 2022. She has a BA in an unrelated field. Sara Koester and Nicole Crawford are the assistant program directors. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers. 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 52 staff members employed by the center.

The program is in a free-standing building. There are computers in the entrance for families to check their children in and out of the program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 242 children enrolled. CUCCC-Valley Park is NAEYC accredited, and it expires on 12/01/23.

The center operates out of fifteen rooms. They have two infant rooms (Disney 1 and Disney 2), two toddler rooms (Circus and Dinosaur), two two-year-old rooms (Dalmatian and Farm), two three-year-old rooms (Ocean and Rainbow), three four and five-year-old rooms (Bear, Panda, and Koala), and four school-aged rooms (Rain Forest, Jungle, Rocket, and Space). An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio during my visit.

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. Many of the rooms are decorated with pictures of the children. The children's birthdays were posted. 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, technology, puppets, geography, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table, play dough, social studies, 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. In the Dinosaur room there is a blue vinyl mat and a red and green vinyl seat that are torn with exposed foam. There is also a brown child's couch in the Dalmatian room that is torn with exposed foam. Once foam is exposed, they cannot be properly sanitized. These items should be repaired or replaced. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center partners with the local school district to provide the voluntary preschool program. The voluntary preschool program takes place in the Koala room. The voluntary preschool program operates Monday through Friday during the school year from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. The center has a monthly health lesson. Activities are planned around themes. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans and turns them into the office. The rooms provide monthly newsletter to parents to inform parents of activities and important events. Each room has a parent board that provides information. There are also staff boards in the room to remind staff of certain duties and their work schedules.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each of the classrooms and in the kitchen. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. You must post them near the outdoor exit in the Koala room. A daily schedule was posted in each room. A lesson plan was available for review in each of the rooms.

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. Kerri Bottema is the cook. The program uses a four-week rotation of menus. The menus are adjusted for the seasons. Menus and allergies are posted. The children are served their food. In the Rainbow room the children were only served two components for breakfast. The room was provided cereal, milk and apple juice. The staff member served the milk as the drink and did not provide the children with the apple juice. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. Please make sure staff members know the guidelines for CACFP.

The program provides one brand of formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are prepared and washed in the classroom using the three-step method. The children's feeding schedules were posted.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial dishwasher to wash dishes. They also have sinks available. The program has an industrial refrigerator, and industrial freezer, three refrigerators and two chest freezers. Thermometers were present. There is also a refrigerator in each of the infant rooms and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen and pantry.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed the teacher prepare the tables for snack and lunch and proper procedures were followed. I also observed staff members clean and disinfect diaper changing tables and procedures were followed. Staff members and children were observed washing their hands and IDPH handwashing procedures are followed.

I observed or discussed diaper changes in each of the rooms. In the Dinosaur room, one of the staff members left their gloves on throughout the changing process. The gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the diaper and dressing the child. I discussed the correct process with the staff member. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

There are multiple sinks and changing tables in the center. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted in all the necessary areas.

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. Fuel burning inspections and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the facility is entirely electric. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/23/21.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside each classroom and in the entrance. 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.

The outdoor play area is divided into four separate fenced-in areas. All four areas have rubber tiles for surface cushioning and have grassy areas. The rubber tiles in the school age area are curling. The National Playground Safety agency has been contacted to fix the problem but has not shown up yet.

The area for infants and toddlers has a tree playhouse, a tunnel, water tables, a small piece of climbing equipment with a slide and a stationary piece of climbing equipment. There is a tarp for shade. There is also an overhang on the building that provides shade.

The area for two-year-old children had climbing equipment with a slide, a tunnel and other activities. There are water tables, a stationary climbing toy and a small table with chairs for the children to rest. There is a tarp for shade. There is also an overhang on the building that provides shade.

The area for children ages three through five-years-old has a larger piece of climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing rope and rings. There is a tarp for shade. There is also an overhang on the building that provides shade.

The area for school-aged children has a large piece of climbing equipment with slides, climbing walls, monkey bars, rings, steppingstones, ladders and balance beams. Shade is provided by small coverings on top of the climbing equipment.

Outside of the fenced play areas there is a larger fenced area with a concrete area and a basketball hoop. There is also a very large grassy area. Trees provide shade in this area. Part of this area is naturalistic with wooden blocks and gardens.

The center also has use of a gym. There is approved fall surfacing in the gym. There are balls, hula hoops and other games available. There are basketball hoops, a loft to play on and balance beams with stepping posts.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twenty children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Five files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information. One file was missing the paperwork giving the center permission to secure emergency care and the form with dental and medical emergency contact information. There were two missing immunization certificates.

I reviewed five staff files. One staff physical was not on the mandated DHH employee physical form, which makes it invalid. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

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

Staff members had great teamwork with one another. They have a good routine and provide the children with clear and easy to understand directions. Staff members were on the floor reading to the children and interacting at the children's level. Staff members offered the children choices and were patient. They used PBIS tactics to redirect children. They provided good handwashing reminders. Staff members used play to teach the children about colors and to count. They provided the children with praise and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Staff members greeted the parents and children as they arrived for the day. Child friendly music was playing in several rooms. It was obvious the children enjoyed their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 6
Information lacking: Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Five files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information. One file was missing the paperwork giving the center permission to secure emergency care and the form with dental and medical emergency contact information.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 2
There were two missing immunization certificates.

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.