Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Safe Care Kids Center LLC

Provider No.: 50153

Address: 128 S Barclay ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Kimberly Kemp

On-Site Supervisor: Kalaziah Bruce

Phone Number: 3192330889

E-Mail: safecarelearningcenter@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/27/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/21/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	16	33	49
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/27/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Safe Care Kids Center in Waterloo. I met with Kimberly Kemp, the owner and director of the program. Ms. Kemp has an AAS in business administration and management. She previously owned a non-registered childcare home for one year and a registered childcare home for seven years. Kalaziah Bruce is the on-site supervisor. The program shares staff members with Ms. Kemp's other childcare center, Safe Care Learning Center.

Safe Care Kids Center was given permission to open on 07/13/18. It is open Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. The program primarily provides care for school-aged children but would care for preschool children also if the need arises. There are currently ten children enrolled. The facility has the capacity to care for 49 children. While the center can stay open until 10:00 pm, the children typically move to the Safe Care Learning Center facility between 8:00-8:30 pm.

Ms. Kemp also owns Safe Care Leaning Center, LLC in Waterloo. Safe Care Kids Center is in a free-standing building that was once a part of the Quakerdale residential treatment program. The two programs are located directly next to one another.

The program is primarily using the two connected rec room areas for childcare. This provides the children with two open spaces to interact. There is a shelving piece that divides the room and blocks the view from one room to the other. A staff member will have to be present in each room when both areas are in use. In addition to the rec rooms there are several small rooms in the facility. The small rooms are currently not being used. The plan is for each small room to be assigned a center. There will be a room for science/STEM, library, music, creative arts and dramatic play. When you begin using these rooms, each room must have a staff member present for supervision. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, table toys, games, puzzles, science, math, dramatic play and art. 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 are easily accessible to the children.

There are three bathrooms located on the back side of the building. One bathroom has one toilet and one sink. The other two bathrooms have two toilets and two sinks. There is a toilet in each of the larger bathrooms that are "Out of Order". Ms. Kemp has contacted the Quakerdale maintenance man and parts have been ordered. There are enough working bathrooms in the building to meet the enrollment needs so this will not be cited. Handwashing procedures were posted. A staff member must accompany children to the back side of the building and supervise children walking into and out of the bathrooms. This may require you to have an additional staff member on site. There is an additional bathroom near the east exit of the building. This bathroom is currently not being used.

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During the school year the program is only used for before and after school care, so a lesson plan is not mandated. The children do homework, read and engage in free play while at the program. They are only at this site for 2-3 hours each day after school. During the summer months a lesson plan is prepared. The program uses Scholars Achieving Future Entrepreneurship, a Safe Way Curriculum and Skilled Learners.

Please post emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number. The posting must also include the poison control number and other emergency numbers. This was cited in last year's report also. Even if staff members only used their cell phones this information must still be posted.

Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted near all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the facility that are being used. Make sure you post them in all the smaller rooms once you begin to use them. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Currently the children are eating everything at the Safe Care Learning Center site. During the school year they are served breakfast prior to school, an afternoon snack and supper and an evening snack if they stay for evening care. During the summer months the program serves breakfast, lunch, a morning and afternoon snack. The children who stay in the evening are offered dinner and an evening snack. A menu was posted. The program uses a two month rotation of menus. There is a kitchen in the facility, but meals are made at Safe Care Learning Center. Deborah Pendleton is the cook. There was a refrigerator and a thermometer was present. The program washes the dishes using the three-step method because the dishwasher does not work.

Member's Mark Sanitizer is used to sanitize the food tables. The tables are being cleaned with soap and water prior to sanitizing. If something needs to be disinfected the program uses bleach and water.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The program only uses a grassy area and a concrete area for basketball. They also have use of the Quakerdale gym on occasion.

The radon test was completed in September 2023. Results were within EPA guidelines. The test is good for five years. Ms. Kemp contacted a heating agency while I was present and the annual fuel burning inspection is scheduled for 08/28/25. No concerns were noted about the previous inspection.

A carbon monoxide detector is in the kitchen. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/21/24.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance hallway. The mandatory reporter was posted. The license was conspicuously hung. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were not posted. I have emailed Ms. Kemp an updated poster to place on the parent board.

The program received playground equipment from the former Expo High School and a closed Waterloo elementary school. They have not had the opportunity to purchase and install fall surfacing, so the equipment is not being used. Once you are using the playground area you must complete monthly playground inspections and have them available for review during licensing visits. Currently, the children play in a grassy area, and they have use of a gym on Quakerdale campus.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There were five children and two staff members on the day of my visit. One staff member was working on a puzzle with children and the other staff member was playing a game with children. The staff member used play to talk with the children about letters. Staff members were actively engaged in these activities with the children. They maintained positive conversations with the children, asking them about how their school day went and talking about things they do at home. Staff members used positive redirection when necessary.

Ms. Kemp states she loves that the center uses Waterloo School employees during the summer months. They play a key role in keeping the children on track.

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Ms. Kemp states the early childhood program at the Waterloo Career Center sends high school intern students over to the center and they shadow in the rooms. Ms. Kemp states the students bring good insight to the program on what they are learning.

Ms. Kemp states they have two center vans and transport children to Highland Elementary, Cunningham Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Irving Elementary, Lincoln Waterloo Elementary and Lou Henry Elementary.

The program is a bus stop for three Waterloo schools (Cunningham Elementary, Orange Elementary and Hoover Middle School).

The center can use the Quakerdale gym for gross motor play when they cannot go outside.

Ms. Kemp states they use the Brightwheel app for communication with families and among staff members. They also use the app attendance and for billing.

The program has a secured entrance.

Ms. Kemp states she is in discussions about purchasing the entire Quakerdale campus.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(2): Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.Mandatory reporting requirements.Notice of availability of the handbook.Name and contact information of the HHS licensing consultant.Program activities and menus.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at the main entrance of the center.
The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were not posted. I have emailed Ms. Kemp an updated poster to place on the parent board. Please post emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number. The posting must also include the poison control number and other emergency numbers. This was cited in last year's report also. Even if staff members only used their cell phones this information must still be posted.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. 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.

I met with Ms. Kemp following my observations in the classrooms. I agreed to send her an updated poster for my contact information and the new HHS website. I also talked with Ms. Kemp about repairing two Out of Oder toilets in the building. Ms. Kemp states she has contacted the Quakerdale maintenance man and they have ordered parts.

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Rebecca Frost

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Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.