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

Name of Center: Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 142 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22502

Street: 600 Stephan AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 600 Stephan AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50701

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

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cherith Osterling & Taylor Tisue **E-Mail:** cepling@cvcatholic.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-10-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-31-2023

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

Date Inspected: 01-13-2023

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	59	38	46	20	163
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 02-23-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 02/10/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Center 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 files. She started with the program in December 2019. She worked at a previous childcare center for nine years. Taylor Tisue became an on-site supervisor in May 2022. She works on the business items and takes care of staff files. The program employs 44 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 the former Blessed Sacrament School. The building is now the Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Center. It is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm and serves children infants through school-aged children. There are three licensed three-year-old preschool classes that meet Monday through Thursday from 8:15-11:30 am.

This actual site has 142 children enrolled currently. However, the children from St. Edward Early Childhood Center in Waterloo come to this site during the summer and during no school days and inclement weather days.

The program operates out of the following rooms: infants (birth until approximately 12 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), three three-year-old preschool/childcare rooms, a four-year-old before and after preschool childcare room and a large school-age room. The program also uses a space in the cafeteria and the music and movement classroom for school-age children during the summer months. An inspection of each room was completed. 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, numbers and colors. The children's birthdays were posted. 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.

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 most rooms. The Butterflies room did not have a current lesson plan. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

There was a phone in all the classrooms and emergency numbers were posted. Post emergency phone numbers in the music and movement room when you use it this summer. Staff members communicate with two-way radios. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed the documentation of fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in July 2022 and must be repeated every two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the infant room near the cribs and the bathroom of the Fireflies room. You should place a carbon monoxide detector in the basement because you use this space in the summer for school-age care. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/13/23.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. The childcare program provides a morning and afternoon snack for children not enrolled in preschool. The school-aged children are provided an afternoon snack. The preschool children are provided a snack through the center. The program purchased a stove, so they are now making lunch on site and the parents are charged a fee. They serve a hot lunch on Monday through Thursday and on Friday the children receive a cold lunch. A new lunch menu is prepared each month. The snack menus use a four-week rotation. Children are offered a bag of cereal if they are hungry in the morning.

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. 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 and in the refrigerator in the dining area. Several of the rooms also have refrigerators and thermometers were present. The food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen and most rooms. There were Cheerios in the infant room that were not stored in a sealed container. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. The older children (four-years-old through school-age) eat in the cafeteria and the younger children eat in their classrooms.

There are bathrooms located in each hallway of the program. In the hallway where the childcare rooms are located the girls' bathroom has four toilets and two sinks. The boy's bathroom has one toilet, three urinals and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There is a changing table in the boys' bathroom and changing procedures were posted in the hallway where the preschool rooms are located the girls' bathroom three toilets and two sinks. The boy's bathroom has two urinals, two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There is a changing table in the girls' bathroom and changing procedures must be posted.

There is a bathroom in the Fireflies room that has two toilets, two sinks and a diaper changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There are sinks in all the rooms and handwashing procedures were posted. The rooms for the younger children have diaper changing tables. Diaper changing procedures were posted in all the rooms except for the Caterpillar room. Please post them in this area.

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. In the Caterpillars room the staff member was leaving the gloves on throughout the entire diapering process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the children. Neither the Caterpillar or the Butterflies room is using soap and water on the changing tables prior to the disinfectant. This must always occur.

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.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant room. Children begin using cots to nap when they turn one-year-old room.

There are four separate playground areas. The area on the south side of the building has turf for fall surfacing. There is a tree for shade. There are slides and pushing toys. This area is fenced in.

There are two fenced in playground areas on the west side of the building. The larger area for the older children uses rubber mulch for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides and stationary climbing pieces. There is a grassy area and a concrete area. There are riding toys, playhouses, a sensory table, balance beam, tunnel and a basketball

hoop. There are picnic table and benches for the children to rest.

The second fenced in area on the west side of the building is a grassy area for infants and toddlers.

There is a school-aged playground on the north side of the building that is partially fenced in. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing. There is climbing equipment with slides and other activities such as rings and monkey bars. There are swings and a bench for children to rest. There are trees for shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. 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. There are parent resources in 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 six staff files. They were in great condition. One staff member did not have any on-going training hours in 2022. I discussed this with Ms. Epling. 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 were observed to have great interaction with the children. Staff members were on the floor with the children introducing them to activities. Children sat on their laps, and they were nurturing and attentive. Staff members were enthusiastic during circle time and included all the children in the class in activities. They provided praise and encouraged the children to try new things. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. They were flexible with their schedules. I did see PBIS techniques being used in the rooms. Staff members used play to review shapes and colors. Child friendly music was playing in several rooms. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Epling states they have been able to keep all their rooms open during Covid to provide care to the children.

Ms. Epling states their staff members continue to grow in their communication with parents and how to improve their rooms.

Ms. Epling states they strive to provide more than childcare by creating “preschool” rooms for all ages.

Ms. Epling states they applied for and was awarded several grants, which has allowed improvements in the rooms, hallways, bathrooms and the playground.

The center has painted the hallways. They took down a wall in the Fireflies room, painted the room and add a new floor. The room looks terrific.

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 which expires on 02/28/24.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each room. The cameras can record. The program doors are locked.

The school-aged children take field trips during the summer months. They walk or use a bus.

Ms. Epling is a fabulous director. She is organized and hard working. She makes corrections as soon as I talk with her about them. Ms. Epling completed the National Administrator Credential (NAC) training. She also completed Business Financial Fundamentals for Center Based Care through First Children’s Finance. She has also completed ECERS and ITERS training.

Under Ms. Epling’s direction the program has expanded.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and with one another. They also use the app for billing. The parents like the app.

The Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Center houses the voluntary four-year-old preschool programs for the Cedar Valley

Catholic School System. These classrooms are under the supervision of the Department of Education. It is convenient for parents to have childcare in the same location.

The center added an additional three-year-old preschool room because of a waiting list.

The program can use all the school campus, including the gym, cafeteria and playground.

The infant room is using owlets.

The full-time staff members receive benefits, such as medical and dental insurance, life insurance and retirement.

Ms. Epling states it is their goal for this year to continue to provide quality care to children; continue to have plenty of staff members for each room; each room is learning the Iowa Learning Standards to completely use the standards in the fall 2023 school year.

Ms. Epling states it is her goal for next year to grow in staffing and to open another toddler or nursery room.

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

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: In the Caterpillars room the staff member was leaving the gloves on throughout the entire diapering process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the children. Neither the Caterpillar or the Butterflies room is using soap and water on the changing tables prior to the disinfectant. This must always occur.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

An administrative change is being made to change the on-site supervisor's name. Taylor Waldstein's name is now Taylor Tisue.

*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.