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

Name of Center: VGM Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 53 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52352

Street: 1111 Van Miller Wy **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 1026 E Seerley BLVD, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jay Mattson **Phone Number:** 319-824-4214

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

Date(s) of Visit: 01-13-2025

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: 10-01-2024

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 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	36	21	42	0	99
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 02-28-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-16-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/13/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to VGM Child Care Center in Waterloo. I met with Sara Koester, the on-site supervisor for the program. Ms. Koester was previously a teacher and assistant director at Community United Child Care Center at Valley Park. She had been the assistant director since 2015. She has been the on-site supervisor at VGM Child Care Center since it opened in November 2023. Ms. Koester completed three years of an elementary education degree. Lauren Figge is in charge when Ms. Koester is not available. Ms. Figge was also previously employed by CUCCC-Valley Park and has been with VGM Child Care Center since it opened. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers (CUCCC). The non-profit corporation operates three other childcare centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. CUCCC was formed on 07/01/93 and all the sites are handicap accessible. There are fifteen staff members employed by this center.

The program is in The VGM Group Building in Waterloo. They were given permission to open without a license was given on 11/06/23. The program operates 7:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and serves infants through preschool-age children. Parents must be employed by VGM or relatives of someone who works at VGM to use the childcare center. There are currently 53 children enrolled. The program has the capacity to care for 99 children.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infants (Caterpillar Canopy), toddlers (Butterfly Park), two-year-old room (Frog Pond), three-year-old room (Owl Cove) and four and five-year-old room (Tiger Den). There is also a gross motor room (Busy Bee Bungalow) for the children to use. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in three of the program rooms. Artificial lighting is used in the infant and toddler rooms. Rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, 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. There is an area for circle time in the rooms. Rooms were in ratio during the visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, magnets, 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 center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Staff members also use a variety of other resources to come up with learning activities for the children. GOLD assessments are completed on all the children. Brigance screening assessments are completed on children. The preschool room used Handwriting Without Tears. DECA assessments ae completed for social and emotional health. Activities are typically developed around weekly themes, but themes may last longer depending on the subject and the children's interest level. Lesson plans are developed by the lead teachers. Each room provides a monthly newsletter to parents to remind them of important dates and inform them of current themes in each room. Lesson plans were available for review in each room. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

Daily sheets are maintained for children under the age of two.

There was a phone with emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram by all three doors in the gross motor room. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in March 2024 and should be repeated in two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. The building is completely electric so a fuel burning inspection and carbon monoxide detector are not necessary. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/01/24.

The program does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Roxanne Mobley 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 cook also makes a separate menu for infants on table food. The children eat in their classrooms. Staff members serve the children their meals.

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 washed in the infant room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator and a freezer in the infant room and thermometers were present.

The kitchen offers a lot of space and was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial dishwasher to wash dishes and there are also additional sinks to use the three-step method if necessary. There is a handwashing sink in the kitchen. Allergies are posted in the kitchen as well as in the rooms. There is a refrigerator, an upright freezer, and a chest freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guideline.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize food tables and disinfect changing tables. I observed or discussed diaper changes in the classrooms. In the Butterfly Park room, the staff member did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change. A staff member also held a child was cleaning and sanitizing the changing table. This cannot occur. In the Frog Pond room, the staff member left the gloves on throughout the entire procedure. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting the new diaper on and dressing the child.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant and toddler rooms. Cots are used to nap in the rooms for the older children. In the Owl Cove room and Tiger Den rooms I observed blankets hanging over the cots. Bedding must be stored so they do not touch one another.

There are several bathrooms throughout the center. In the infant room there are two changing tables and two handwashing sinks. There is also a sink in the room for food prep. In the toddler room there is a bathroom with one toilet and one sink and two changing tables. Ther is also a handwashing sink in the room. In the two-year-old room there is a bathroom with two toilets, one sink and one changing table. There is an additional handwashing sink in the room. In the three-year-old room there is a bathroom with two toilets and one sink and there is an additional handwashing sink in the classroom. In the four and five-year-old room there are two bathrooms and each has one toilet and one sink. There is an additional handwashing sink in the room. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted in most locations. Post handwashing procedures near the bathroom sink in the Butterfly Park room and near the classroom sink in the Owl Cove room.

In several rooms there were diaper creams, sunscreen and staff medications that were not labeled with a child's name or with "staff". All these products must be labeled. There was a powder for a child in the Frog Pond room. Powders and aerosols cannot be used in childcare while children are present because they are asthmatic triggers.

There are two fenced in playgrounds for the children. Turf is used for fall surfacing in both locations. There is also a grassy area in both locations. There is a smaller area for the younger children that has a small piece of climbing equipment with slides and a climbing wall. There are swings. Trees have been planted to provide shade.

There is a larger area for the older children. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides, a bridge and a climbing wall. There are sensory tables and a concrete path for riding toys. There is a shade structure in this area.

The gross motor room is available for children also.

The parent information is located on bulletin boards inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The letter giving permission to open was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children in each room. Staff members are enthusiastic and it came across in how they interacted with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles

within the classroom and know what to expect from one another. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Staff members were nurturing and held children on their laps. They comforted them when they were upset. Children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Koester states their enrollment has increased.

Ms. Koester states they have a good group of staff members and they do not have high turnover.

Ms. Koester states they have a good administration team who supports them.

There is "meet the teacher" information outside of every classroom.

Ms. Koester states the parents love having childcare in their building. It provides ease for drop-off and pick-up. This also allows parents to come and go as they want. They can come to the center to give their children medication when needed.

The program is in a secured building. There are cameras in the rooms and the hallway.

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

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
In several rooms there were diaper creams, sunscreen and staff medications that were not labeled with a child's name or with "staff". All these products must be labeled. There was a powder for a child in the Frog Pond room. Powders and aerosols cannot be used in childcare while children are present because they are asthmatic triggers.

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 Butterfly Park room, the staff member did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change. A staff member also held a child was cleaning and sanitizing the changing table. This cannot occur. In the Frog Pond room, the staff member left the gloves on throughout the entire procedure. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting the new diaper on and dressing the child.

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.