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

Name of Center: Waverly Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 189 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18382

Street: 1600 W Bremer Ave **City:** Waverly Iowa **Zip** 50677 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: PO Box 34, Waverly, IA, 50677

Director's Name: Heather Wagner **Phone Number:** 319-352-4664

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristin Kuiper **E-Mail:** wccp1970@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-21-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-17-2024

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 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	53	141	60	344
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2025 to 07-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 06-26-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 05/21/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Waverly Child Care and Preschool. I met with Heather Wagner, the director. Her internal title is Director of Operations. She started this position in December 2021. Ms. Wagner has an AAS in child development and has been employed with the program for seventeen years. She has completed NAC training. Kristin Kuiper is the on-site supervisor for this program. Her internal title is assistant director. She has been with the center since January 2002 and the on-site supervisor since May 2022. She has a BA in psychology. There are 31 staff members employed by the center.

The center is in a free-standing building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. The program cares for infants through school-aged children, aged ten-years-old (or fourth grade). There are currently 189 children enrolled.

There are resources for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

The center has the following rooms: two infant rooms (birth until approximately 12 months), two toddler rooms (approximately 12-24 months), two two-year-old rooms, two three-year-old rooms, two mixed three and four-year-old rooms, two four-year-old rooms and school-aged children are cared for in the multi-purpose room. An inspection of each room was completed. Not all the rooms are currently being used. 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 birthdates are also posted. There is an area for circle time in most rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art/crafts, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, puppets, play dough, 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 are easily accessible to the children.

The center partners with the Waverly Shell Rock School District to provide the voluntary preschool program. The preschool program participates in the Iowa QPPS program. Amy Slaba is the lead teacher for the program. The preschool classes meet Monday through Friday and offer a morning class from 9:00-11:00 am and an afternoon class from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Creative Curriculum is used to develop lesson plans for the voluntary preschool program. In the other classrooms a variety of resources are used. Activities are planned around themes. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest. Lesson plans were available for review in every room except the three-year-old room. She was able to tell me her plan for the day. Make sure every room has a written lesson plan available. This will not be cited.

The center uses ProCare to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two years old. They also use the app to

communicate with all the families. They can send pictures and document activities or concerns. Parents have access to the information immediately and enjoy using the app and receiving pictures of the children.

There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in some of the rooms. Please make sure an emergency posting with all the required information is posted in each room. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

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 must be repeated in five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in each program room as part of the safety system on the ceiling along with the fire alarms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/17/24.

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. Ashley Wiele is the cook. Ms. Wiele uses an eight week rotation of menus. Menus were posted. Food was stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. There is an industrial refrigerator and two industrial freezers in the kitchen and thermometers were present. There is also a bread freezer and a milk cooler and thermometers were present. There are three industrial sinks and an industrial dishwasher. There are also two handwashing sinks.

In the infant room, the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. Parents can bring a different brand if they choose. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. Bottles are sent home or to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized.

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

I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members, and proper procedures are followed.

Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks in the center. Diaper changing procedures are posted near all the changing tables.

The parent information is in the entrance of the center. 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. I provided an updated contact poster for me so that it has my new email address and the new HHS website.

There are three fenced in playground areas behind the original building. Two of the areas are used for two-year-old children. One has rubber tiles for surface cushioning. The area has a playhouse and small slides. It has some pushing toys and riding toys and a picnic table. There is a large shade structure in this area.

The second area uses woodchips for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment with slides and other activities, a balance beam, a sandbox and a cemented area for sidewalk chalk and riding toys. There is a tree planted in this area.

The third area is for the preschool children. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning and there is also a large grassy area. There is climbing equipment with slides, ramps and other activities, a sandbox, a balance beam, a playhouse and a picnic table. There is also a cemented area for riding toys and sidewalk chalk. There is a large shade canopy in this area and trees to provide shade. You should add more sand to the sandbox.

Behind the new building there is a fenced area for infants and toddlers and a larger space for the older children. The larger space is currently being used by school age children but will eventually be used by preschool children also. This is a large grassy area with no equipment. They plan to keep the space natural for right now. The area for the infants and toddlers has turf surfacing. There are small slides, rocking toys and a dramatic play center.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 20 children's files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed five staff files. Two staff members have been employed for longer than ninety days and did not have documentation for universal precautions, mandatory reporter or Essentials training. One staff member had an outdated universal precautions training and an outdated physical. One staff member had an outdated SING background check.

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

This center is well organized and because of staff longevity among the lead teachers they have great teamwork. Ms.

Wagner has been with the program for several years and provides great leadership. Staff members have a terrific relationship with one another and that carries over to the care of the children. I observed staff members talk with the children about using their words to solve problems and about taking turns. They provided the children with good handwashing reminders and several of them sang with the children as they washed their hands. Rooms are decorated with several pictures of the children and art projects. Staff members provide the children with a good routine and use play to teach the children colors and numbers. Staff members offered the children choices. They were patient and nurturing with children who have difficult behaviors at times. Staff members were on the floor with the children. They were actively engaged in play and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. Staff members had good knowledge of the children's developmental needs and social-emotional needs.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Wagner states the center has good staff retention. She states they have so many who stay.

Ms. Wagner states she is trying really hard to build the center back up to where it used to be because while they have several great staff members who stay, they are still short staffed.

Ms. Wagner states she has staff members who are trying to better themselves and be good role models for the younger staff members.

Ms. Wagner states the staff members are flexible and help where they are needed. They all have caring hearts.

The program has provided childcare since 1970. They will celebrated 55 years of existence in August 2025. They purchased land next to the existing center and completed construction of a new addition and took possession of it in February 2023. They completed renovating the original center in August 2023.

The program is in a secured building.

The center has a Facebook page and an Instagram account.

There is information about teachers outside of each classroom.

The center has a partnership with the Waverly Shell Rock school district and Wartburg College.

The center partners with Waverly Shell Rock school district to provide the four-year-old voluntary preschool program.

The center works with Central Rivers AEA to assist children with identified needs.

Ms. Wagner is a fantastic director. She has built relationships with staff members and staff members know they have her support. Ms. Wagner has a great grasp of licensing standards and makes sure corrections are made when necessary. She is great at reaching out with questions because it is important for her to do things correctly. I would like to see the board take her opinions and recommendations more seriously. She has great ideas.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
One staff member had an outdated SING background check.

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
Two staff members have been employed for longer than ninety days and did not have documentation for universal

precautions, mandatory reporter or Essentials training.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff member had an outdated physical.

109.11(5): Telephone: Working non-pay phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting.List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone. There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in some of the rooms. Please make sure an emergency posting with all the required information is posted in each room.

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.