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

Name of Center: University Community Childcare Inc **Enrollment:** 62 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16802

Street: 2623 Bruner DR **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 2623 Bruner DR, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Stacy Lehman **Phone Number:** 515-294-9838

On-Site Supervisor(s): Angi Esser/Tracy Yetter/Laura Martin **E-Mail:** univcc@iastate.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 03-03-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-03-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-16-2021

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

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 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	41	18	47	19	125
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 5

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2022 to 03-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 03-14-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 3/3/23. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

University Community Childcare first opened in 1971. It is a center for the child care needs of Iowa State University faculty and staff and also for Iowa State students. They also offer a separate preschool program for families in the community.

The Comfort Zone/Get Well portion of this center closed permanently in March of 2020 and this space has now been converted to an infant classroom.

UCC is a year round center that provides care for infants up to and including school age children. Hours of operation are 7:00 am-5:30 pm. They moved to this location that was built specifically for child care in 2004. The center can be accessed by a code that is given to parents, or by ringing a buzzer to be let in by the front desk staff. Stacy Lehman is the director. Stacy has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education as well as Sociology. Stacy has been a director at another center and has several years experience in a daycare setting. Angi Esser is the assistant director and has worked in childcare several years, as well as having prior experience as a CCR&R consultant. There are two On-Site Supervisors, Tracy Yetter and Laura Martin. Both have several years of experience in a childcare setting. All four meet qualifications for their positions.

Besides the child care program, they also offer a separate preschool program. This is available for the families who do not need child care but would like their children to receive a preschool education. This preschool program is offered only in the mornings, and only during the school year. The center also participates in the SWVPP.

The preschool program uses the classroom in the morning that the school aged children use in the afternoons. On some days the school aged children will be at the center all day; so on those days the school aged children will use an open area in the center of the building.

The other now five rooms in the center are used for the child care program. Each room has a door that leads directly outdoors to their specific playground area. The new infant classroom has a capacity for 13 children with a square footage of 523 square feet. The fire marshal approved this space for use. A fence was added to the already exiting playground to add space for the infants in this classroom. The room is ready for use, however the center is waiting to use the space to be able to hire additional staff.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum.

Three years have passed now since the pandemic began. The center is still not offering morning preschool due to the

pandemic and staffing shortages. The center continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19 as well as their own Covid-19 mitigation policies. This center, as with the majority of centers throughout the State, is facing staffing shortages.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has maintained a QRS rating of level 5 for the past eight years. Level 5 is the highest level that can be achieved.

The center has been NAEYC accredited since 2000.

The center is involved with the TEACH program. Currently, there are no staff in the TEACH program, however staff are interested. Staff participate in the WAGES program.

The center has many long term staff, including staff who have worked at the center for 33 years, 23 years, 20 years, 13 years, 9 years, 6 years and 5 years: some of the staff have their Associates degree or a BA degree.

The staff work well together and are professional.

The center has a strong working relationship and partnership with the university.

The center works with other programs and resources for the families and receives funding from other programs. The center partners with United Way. The center receives funding and support from the Government of Student Body. The center offers a Boost scholarship for preschool children.

The center has a good reputation in the community.

The center communicates well with families.

There are staff profiles outside of each classroom and a board in the main hallway with pictures of assistant and part time staff who might float between classrooms.

The center has guest speakers through the library and from the Extension office that come to the center once a month to read to the children and discuss different topics. This has not taken place during the pandemic, however this will resume when appropriate.

The center conducts monthly staff meetings, which also includes a pot luck or food purchased by the center and brought in, and time for staff to be in their classrooms.

The center has a staff appreciation budget line. The center celebrates staff birthdays once a month and special events.

The center participates in the week of the child by also appreciating staff and getting staff gifts as well as staff receiving breakfast, lunch and snacks during the week.

The center has a Star of the month where they recognize a staff person each month during their staff meeting.

The center started a Staff Spotlight board that will be put up every month spotlighting a staff member and also having other staff write out positive things on a note and posting this on the board as well.

The center has great outdoor playground space for each age group. The playground is separated into five sections.

The center was able to give staff bonuses again this year.

The center has received grant money through CARE and United Way, they were able to purchase new items for the classrooms, including shelving units and STEM items.

Iowa State will be doing some remodeling for the center, to include new flooring and countertops and cabinets. The center will be getting a new security door and new key card for the entry and a panic button will be installed at the front desk.

Staff are training in PBIS.

The center will close two days during the year for Professional Development days for staff.

The administration team works well together.

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

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.

One staff file reviewed did not have Essentials training completed within the first three months of employment; this was completed over a year after employment.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the CACFP (food program) and their menus reflect they are following the guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center completed radon testing in March of 2022 and all rooms tested fell under the 4.0 level.

The furnace is inspected yearly by the University.

*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.