Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: A to Z Learning Center & Day Care-W 4th St

Provider No.: 22640

Address: 3823 W 4th St, Waterloo, IA, 50701

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Christine York

On-Site Supervisor: Kayla Schatzberg

Phone Number: 3192341919

E-Mail: atoz_3823@hotmail.com, atoz@cfu.net, atoz4828@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/27/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/07/2024

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	18	12	39	14	83
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/27/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to A to Z Learning Center and Day Care on West 4th Street in Waterloo. I met with Kayla Schatzberg, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Schatzberg has been with A to Z since August 2009 and became the on-site supervisor in October 2018. She has an AA in liberal arts. Ms. Schatzberg has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). Cortney Blanchard, the previous on-site supervisor, is her assistant. Ms. Blanchard has been with A to Z since 2003. Chris York is the executive director of the centers. She has been involved with childcare for over thirty years and she has been the director of A to Z since it opened in 1991. The center employs fifteen staff members.

This center was established in 2003. A to Z Corporation operates four childcare centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. This center operates out of a free-standing building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are six weeks old through twelve-years-old. There are currently 94 children enrolled.

The program utilizes the following classrooms: infants (Bear Cubs), toddlers (Alligators), two-year-olds (Doodle Bugs), three-year-olds (Jungle Friends), three and four-year-olds (Dinosaurs), four and five-year-olds (Sea Creatures), and school-age (Clowns). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for most rooms. The Dinosaur room is in the middle of the center and uses artificial 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 birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the rooms. All the rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles,

transportation, art, dramatic play, playdough, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, 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.

There are phones in each of the rooms and emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The curriculum is well-balanced and provides a variety of activities to meet the physical, emotional and developmental needs of the children. Activities are based on weekly themes. The themes are the same throughout the center (except the school-age room) and each teacher prepares lesson plans with age-appropriate activities for their class. A lesson plan was available for review in each room. Each room also has an activity calendar.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

The radon test was completed in October 2024. The results were above EPA guidelines in almost every room. They completed another short term test in each of the rooms and the results remained high. Ms. Schatzberg spoke with a radon specialist and they are currently doing a long term test in each room.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site on the main level in the Doodle Bug room and the Sea Creatures room. On the upper level the carbon monoxide detector is in the smaller room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/07/24.

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. Toya Jefferson-Quinn is the cook. The center has a rotation of four menus. Meals are served in the classrooms. Family style is being used depending on what is being served for the meal and the age of the child. Menus were posted.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses the three-step method to wash dishes. Allergies are posted in the kitchen as well as in each room. There is one refrigerator and an upright freezer in the kitchen and thermometers are present. There is also a refrigerator and an upright freezer in the storage area on the upper level. There were thermometers present. The pantry is located down the hall from the kitchen. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

There is a refrigerator in the infant room and a thermometer was present.

There is an area between the infant and toddler rooms that has two changing tables, two sinks and a toilet. There is a bathroom in the two-year-old room with a toilet and sink and there is a changing table in the classroom. The Dinosaurs and Sea Creature rooms share a bathroom with three toilets, two sinks and a changing table. There is a sink in the Dinosaur room and in the Jungle Friends room. There is a bathroom in the school-age room with one toilet and one sink. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted in all the necessary locations.

I observed and discussed diaper changes in the rooms where they occur, and proper procedures are followed.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and to disinfect the changing tables. Bottles are clearly labeled.

Cots and cribs are used to nap. Bedding was stored appropriately.

The outdoor play area consists of two large fenced in areas. One area is for toddlers and two-year-old children and the other area is for children aged three-years-old through school-aged children. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. Shade is provided by trees. There is climbing equipment in each area. The area for younger children has a playhouse, a sensory table, rocking toys and a grassy area.

The area for the older children has a sandbox, a basketball court and a grassy area.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter requirements were posted. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members were fully engaged with the children in each of the rooms. In the infant room the staff member was playing child friendly music. She cleaned up immediately following the snack. She provided full supervision, moved around the space and was patient with the children. In the Doodle Bug room, the staff member was sitting on the floor building a tower with the children. The children enjoyed knocking the tower over. Child friendly music was playing in the room. She was nurturing and patient with a new child in the classroom that was having problems adjusting. She encouraged children to use their words to communicate. In the Dinosaur room the children were singing and dancing while they waited for snack. The staff member provided good handwashing reminders. Child friendly music was playing in the room. In the preschool room the staff member was on the floor reading to the children and then she played a group game with them. She was flexible with her schedule and offered the children choices. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

Ms. Schatzberg states they have a good summer school age program. They take field trips and go swimming frequently.

Ms. Schatzberg states they have good staff members. Her staff have longevity and they get along well with one another.

Ms. Schatzberg states Porsche Welton is their preschool teacher and she has done a good job with that program. She is creative and she does assessments on the children. She focuses on letters, numbers and name writing.

Ms. Schatzberg has obtained her National Administrator's Credential (NAC).

The center has three vans and provides transportation to Irving Elementary, Kittrell Elementary and Lou Henry Elementary for the school-aged children. The center is a bus stop for Orange Elementary.

Ms. Jefferson-Quinn, the cook, has been with the center for several years and the children love seeing her. I observed her in several rooms and she brings a lot of enthusiasm to the children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

N/A

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. Schatzberg and Ms. Blanchard following my observations in the classrooms. They had a great visit.

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Rebecca Frost

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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**.