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

Name of Center: It Takes A Village Childcare, LLC **Enrollment:** 84 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50667

Street: 3631 W 9th ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 600 Park LN, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Vivian Mabry **Phone Number:** 319-229-2930

On-Site Supervisor(s): Vivian Mabry **E-Mail:** VMabry@fvrc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-02-2024

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: 08-01-2023

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 School-Age

X Get-Well X 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	34	18	48	0	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-18-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/02/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to It Takes A Village Childcare in Waterloo. I met with Vivian Mabry, the director for the program. Ms. Mabry started with the program in March 2020 and became the director in October 2023. She has an AA in early childhood development. She has been employed in the childcare field for over 30 years. The program employs 28 staff members. The center used to have an assistant director/on-site supervisor, but no one is currently filling this position. I would recommend assigning an assistant to help Ms. Mabry with the administrative duties.

Friendship Village, a retirement community, built a childcare center on their campus. They were given permission to open on 07/15/19. The program can operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and serves infants through children five-years-old. They are currently only operating 5:30 am until 7:30 pm. They are no longer offering weekend care and only operate Monday through Friday because there has not been a need for weekend or overnight care. There are currently 84 children enrolled. The center has the capacity to care for 100 children in the childcare center.

Friendship Village partially made the decision to build a childcare facility to assist employees they hire at Friendship Village with childcare for all three shifts. The program is also has a partnership with Mercy One Hospital and is open to the community.

The program operates out of five rooms: infants (Purple room), one-year-olds (Teal room), two-year-olds (Blue room), three-year-olds (Green room) and four and five-year-olds (Red room). There is an additional room in the center that is currently empty and the center is going to open a second infant room. 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, shapes, colors and numbers. All 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, writing, 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. You must secure the electrical cord for the CD player in the Blue room so children do not have access to it.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources to develop lesson plans. Activities are based on themes. The program is using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as an assessment tool. The program has parent/teacher conferences when the child starts, each spring and before the child transitions to the next room. The center sends a monthly newsletter home to the parents to keep them updated on center activities. Lesson plans were available in each of the rooms except for the Red room. They just lost their lead teacher and new lead teacher is being trained to prepare lesson plans.

ProCare is used to complete daily sheets.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each classroom. 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 except the Red room. The new lead teacher is developing one.

Cots and cribs are used to nap.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in July 2022. Results were within EPA guidelines at the time but another radon test is due now. There are no fuel burning appliances in the center. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway near the kitchen. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/01/23.

The program uses Chem Work Quaternary Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. Some of the rooms are also Purell Professional Surface Sanitizer on the food tables. One room also had 256-Century Q One Step Disinfectant is used on changing tables. I believe the day of my visit the program was mixing the Chem Work Neutral Worx Concentrated Neutral Cleaner as the disinfectant. Please correct this as this is only a cleaner and not a disinfectant. You must label all the bottles. Many staff members did not know what product they were using.

The mat on one of the changing tables in the Blue room is torn and one of the mats in the infant room is torn. These must be replaced as they cannot properly be disinfected. In the blue room the soap dispenser in the classroom needs batteries. It is currently not working.

I observed and/or discussed diaper changes in the classrooms and procedures are mostly followed. There are bathrooms inside the classrooms for the children two-years-old and older. Each bathroom has a toilet and sink and there were changing tables in some of the bathrooms. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch, supper and a morning, afternoon and nighttime snack. Breakfast, lunch and supper are prepared by a Friendship Village chef and delivered to the center. Friendship Village provides the snacks, but the center prepares them. Menus are prepared by Friendship Village, who has a nutritionist on site. There are a series of menus for spring and summer and a series of menus for fall and winter. Menus were posted. Food items are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus and allergies were posted in each room and the kitchen. Family style is only used in the Red room.

Parents provide all formula, baby food and cereal for the infants. The center provides the meals when they are on table food. Bottles are washed in the room using the three-step method.

There is a refrigerator in each room and thermometers were present. There are also three sinks in each room specifically for washing dishes. The three-step method is used. The infant room and the one-year-old room have the three sinks and a dishwasher. Silverware and cups are washed in the classrooms and the other dishes are sent to Friendship Village to be washed.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is an industrial refrigerator, and an industrial freezer and thermometers were present.

The program has a fenced in outdoor play area behind the center. The area is mostly a natural play area. They have slides built into a small hill, a music center, art center and sensory tables. They have rubber fall surfacing on the area where there are objects with a fall height greater than 18 inches. They have a concrete path through the area. They have tarps for shade and have also planted trees.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. 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.

Staff members had great teamwork. They provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. They provided the children with great handwashing reminders. Child friendly, soothing music was playing in some of the rooms. Staff members were observed to be nurturing and attentive with the children. They were actively engaged in activities and used play to teach the children as well as encourage them to use their imaginations. Staff members engaged the children in positive conversation and talked with them about sharing and taking turns. Staff members were singing to the children and reading to the children. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Mabry all full time staff members and qualified part time staff members (35 hours and more) receive benefits, such as 401, vision, health and life insurance.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in the room that can record.

The center uses ProCare to communicate with the parents and the parents love it.

Ms. Mabry states the center is going to add a second infant room by August.

Ms. Mabry states every Wednesday the grandparents from Friendship Village visit the center to interact with the children. The children visit the grandparents at Friendship Village once each month. There are pictures of the children and grandparents in the hallway of the center.

Ms. Mabry states the center has a partnership with Mercy One Hospital and they hold slots in the center for their employees. The hospital staff members receive a fifty percent discount through a grant until at least September 2024. Friendship Village employees receive a forty percent discount.

Ms. Mabry states they no longer have a well center because they do not have a nurse, but they have turned the room into a space for nursing mothers.

Ms. Mabry states the center is in a great location.

Ms. Mabry states the building itself was built specifically for childcare which is great. They have a great location being near the hospital and Friendship Village. They are under the Friendship Village that allows the center to use their maintenance staff for repairs. Friendship Village also orders all their food and supplies, and they have Human Resources to help with staff matters.

FOX Rehabilitation, formally Northern Iowa Therapy (NIT) visits the center to work with children for physical, occupational and speech therapy. They help the center to get equipment to assist the children.

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

N/A

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.