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

**Name of Center:** A to Z Learning Center & Day Care-W 4th St **Enrollment:** 93 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22640

**Street:** 3823 W 4th St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

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

**Director's Name:** Christine York **Phone Number:** 319-234-1919

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Kayla Schatzberg **E-Mail:** atoz_3823@hotmail.com, atoz@cfu.net, atoz4828@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 11-05-2024

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-15-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 10-07-2024

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:** X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** X Profit 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 | 18 | 12 | 39 | 14 | 83 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Becky Frost **Date:** 11-18-2024

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 11/05/24 I made an unannounced 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.

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 93 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 the 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 were easily accessible to the children.

There are phones in 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. Each room also has an activity calendar.

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 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 October 2024 and is good for two years. The results were above EPA guidelines in almost every room. Ms. Schatzberg spoke with a radon specialist and they are going to do another short term test in each of the rooms over Thanksgiving break. The radon specialist felt there must have been a mistake with the tests since it occurred in almost every 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 Bugs room and in the movie room on the upper level. 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. Ms. Jefferson-Quinn has been with the center for several years and the children love seeing her. 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. Thermometers were 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 in the refrigerated area. The freezer portion needs a thermometer and should be thawed out.

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.

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 toddler and two-year-old children and the other area if for children ages 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.

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.

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

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

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

Staff members were observed to have genuine relationships with the children. They were actively engaged in activities. I observed them to be nurturing. Some staff members provided children with hugs and had children sitting on their laps. Staff members were helping the children with an art project, helping them build block towers and helping them spell their names. Staff members used play to talk with the children about colors and counting. Child friendly music was playing in some of the rooms. They sang with children while they washed their hands and removed items that children put in their mouths so they could be sanitized. The children were excited and appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. Schatzberg states the center has staff longevity with helps a lot. The staff members are there for the right reason.

Ms. Schatzberg states they have a good preschool program. The teacher in the classroom focuses on letter, numbers and name writing.

Ms. Schatzberg states it helps to have organized staff members.

Ms. Schatzberg has great organizational skills. The staff and children files were in great condition. She has great relationships with the staff members.

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

The center provides transportation to Irving Elementary, Kittrell Elementary, Orange Elementary and Lou Henry Elementary for the school-aged children.

They have a good summer school-age program. They keep them busy and entertained. The children take field trips Monday through Friday each week.

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

N/A

**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.