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

Name of Center: Community United Child Care Centers-Nordic Drive **Enrollment:** 103 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22887

Street: 5109 Nordic DR **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 1026 E Seerley BLVD, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jay Mattson **Phone Number:** 319-266-4477

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katherine Thiessen **E-Mail:** admined@cuccc.org

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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: 09-01-2022

Comments : The new addition was approved by the fire marshal on 07/14/23. The second part of the renovations were approved by the fire marshal on 05/29/24.

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	92	52	102	38	284
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 06-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/23/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Community United Child Care Center (CUCCC)-Nordic Drive in Cedar Falls. I met with Katherine "Kat" Thiessen, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Thiessen has been working at another CUCCC site since October 2022 and started her new position as the on-site supervisor at this site on 10/16/23. Ms. Thiessen has a BS in an unrelated field. She has previous experience in childcare and was previously the director at another childcare site. Leah Seible is her assistant and is assisting in training Ms. Thiessen. She is in charge when Ms. Thiessen is away from the center. Ms. Seible started with the program in August 2006. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers (CUCCC). The non-profit corporation operates three childcare centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. CUCCC was formed on 07/01/93 and all the sites are handicap accessible. There are 44 staff members employed by this center.

The program is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through preschool children. There are currently 103 children enrolled, but it has the capacity to serve 229 children. CUCCC-Nordic Drive is NAEYC accredited, which expires 06/01/28.

The center operates out of the following rooms: two infant rooms (Butterfly and Caterpillar), two rooms for 12–24-month-olds (Firefly and Bumble Bee), two rooms for two-year-olds (Beach and Lady Bug), two rooms for three-year-olds (Zoo and Farm) and one room for four and five-year-olds (Frog). An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio.

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 birthdays were posted. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and several had pictures of the families. There is an area for circle time in the rooms. Pictures of staff members are located outside each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, 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. In the Butterfly room the electrical cord of the sound machine hangs low off a shelf. The cord must be secured so the children cannot reach it.

There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number were posted in all rooms. 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 the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Staff members in each room do observations. DECA assessments and Brigance assessments are completed. Activities are typically developed around weekly themes/studies, but they may last longer depending on the topic and the children's interest level. Lesson plans are developed by the lead

teachers in each classroom. A lesson plan was available for review in each room.

Daily sheets are maintained in the infant and toddler rooms.

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 is good for two 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 the hallway. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/01/22.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Katie Trueg is the cook. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The program uses a four-week rotation of menus. The children are being served their meals. Menus were posted and allergies were confidentially posted.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial dishwasher. The program primarily uses disposable products in the classrooms. There are three refrigerators, two upright freezers and a chest freezer. Thermometers were present. There is one handwashing sink and handwashing procedures were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the kitchen.

In the infant room, the program provides formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are prepared in the classroom and washed in the classrooms using the three-step method. There are refrigerators in the Butterfly, Caterpillar and Firefly rooms and thermometers were present. There are also freezers in the Butterfly and Caterpillar rooms for breast milk. Thermometers were present.

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

I observed or discussed diaper changes in the rooms where they occur. Proper procedures are followed.

There were numerous bathrooms in the classrooms and in the center and handwashing procedures were posted. The diaper changing tables had changing procedures posted. Cots are used to nap for the older children and cribs for the infants. In the Frog room the bedding was hanging over the sides of the cots. This cannot occur. The bedding of one child cannot touch the bedding of another child. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

The outdoor play area is divided into four separate fenced areas. One area is for school-aged children. The program no longer provides care for school age children so this area is not used. All four areas have rubber tiles for surface cushioning. Shade is provided by trees and there were tarp shade structures in the infant/toddlers, two-year-old and school-age areas. There are trees for shade in the four and five-year-old area.

The area for infants and toddlers has a small piece of climbing equipment, tree playhouse and pushing toys.

The two-year-old area has a piece of climbing equipment with slides for the children. There is a picnic table for the children to rest.

The four and five-year-old area has a piece of climbing equipment with slides, rings, monkey bars and a climbing wall. There were sensory tables, blocks and a small grassy area. A picnic table is available for the children to rest.

The program also has use of a gym when they are unable to go outside.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were not posted. These posters have been provided so they could be hung in this area. Each classroom did have a mandatory reporter poster. 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 fifteen children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not have adequate dental emergency contact information. This will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

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

Staff members were observed to have amazing interaction with the children and great teamwork. Child friendly music was playing in several rooms. I observed staff members actively engaged in activities with the children. I observed children sitting on staff members' laps as they read to them. Staff members were nurturing and attentive. They provided one on one attention to the children and engaged the children in group activities. When the rooms received a child that would put them over ratio, they called the office right away for assistance or to shift children. Staff members encouraged the children to use

their imaginations. They were singing with the children and used play to teach the children about colors. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Seible states their staff are their greatest strengths. Ms. Seibel states they have been supportive during the transition of getting a new on-site supervisor. Ms. Seible states they work as a team and they are willing to help when and where they are needed.

Ms. Seible states they work with kind and understanding families.

Ms. Thiessen states staff members have been willing to stay late or come in early when necessary to make sure shifts are covered.

Ms. Thiessen states staff members communicate well.

The program is currently under reconstruction. They have completed phase one and the infants and toddlers have moved into their newly constructed rooms. They are now working on phase two. Eventually the entire building will be completely renovated.

CUCCC-Nordic Drive is NAEYC accredited and it expires on 06/01/28.

The center's hallways are decorated with the children's art projects.

The center partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. The center also cooperates with Early Access to provide support services to families for infants through children two-years-old.

I observed staff members call the office for assistance when a child arrived that would have put them out of ratio.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Katherine "Kat" Thiessen as the new on-site supervisor of the program. Trisha Townsend's last day at the program on 09/29/23. Ms. Thiessen has been working at another CUCCC site since October 2022 and started her new position as the on-site supervisor at this site on 10/16/23. Ms. Thiessen has a BS in an unrelated field. She has previous experience in childcare and was previously the director at another childcare site.

In June 2024 an administrative change is being made to include school-age children in the population served by the center. An administrative change is also being made to increase the total capacity to 284 children. The center had an addition that was approved by the fire marshal in July 2023. They then renovated the original part of the building and that was approved by the fire marshal on 05/29/24.

*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.