

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

**Name of Center:** Community United Child Care Centers-Westridge      **Enrollment:** 176      **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22648

**Street:** 3610 Ansborough Ave      **City:** Waterloo      Iowa      **Zip** 50701      **County:** Black Hawk

**Mailing Address:** 3610 Ansborough Ave, Waterloo, IA, 50701

**Director's Name:** Jay Mattson      **Phone Number:** 319-234-5920

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

**Date(s) of Visit:** 10-21-2020

**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:** 10-05-2020

**Comments :**

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

**Financial Type:**      Profit      X      Non-Profit      NA

**Accreditation:**      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      X      Special Needs

**SCHEDULE:**      X      Year-round      School-Year      Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	94	48	96	32	270
Summer					0

**QRS Rating:** 4

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b>	
X	<b>FULL</b> license from 11-01-2019 to 11-01-2021
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from
	<b>DENIAL</b> of initial application
	<b>SUSPENSION</b> of license
	<b>REVOCATION</b> of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 10-21-2020

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

N/A

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

On 10/21/20 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to CUCCC-Westridge in Waterloo. I met with Amy Junkins, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Junkins has an AAS in early childhood education and has been the on-site supervisor since July 2012. Nikki Pfalzgraf is the assistant program director and she is in charge when Ms. Junkins is not available. Jay Mattson is the executive director of Community United Child Care Centers (CUCCC). The non-profit corporation operates three child care centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. CUCCC was formed on 07/01/93 and all of the sites are handicap accessible. There are 54 staff members employed by this center.

The program is located in a free standing building. There was an addition to the building that the program began using in June 2016. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 176 children enrolled. With the new addition the program has the capacity to serve 270 children. CUCCC-Westridge is NAEYC accredited that expires 10/01/21, and has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expires 05/31/21.

The center operates out of the following rooms: two infant rooms (Turtle and Jelly Fish), two toddler rooms (Starfish and Lobster), two two-year-old rooms (Seal and Dolphins), two three-year-old rooms (Walrus and Whales), two four and five-year-old rooms (Sting Ray and Shark), and a school-aged room (Octopus). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, 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 each room. Rooms were in ratio during the visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, puppets, Play-Doh, 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.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Activities are typically developed around weekly themes, but themes may last longer depending on the subject and the children's interest level. Lesson plans are developed by the lead teachers. The Sting Ray room partners with the Waterloo School System to provide the voluntary preschool program to four-year-old children through the grant. It participates in the Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). The voluntary preschool class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. Lisa Shuttles is the teacher for the preschool class. A monthly newsletter is provided to parents to remind them of important dates and inform them of current themes in each room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2019 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 in the back room of the office above the counter. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/05/20.

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. The program uses a four week rotation of menus. Meals were served family style in the rooms for the older children prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. Currently all classrooms are serving the children their food.

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

The kitchen offers a lot of space and was observed to be clean and organized. The center uses an industrial dishwasher to wash dishes and there are also three additional sinks to use the three step method. There is a handwashing sink in the kitchen as well. Allergies are posted in the kitchen as well as in the rooms. There are two refrigerators and three freezers in the kitchen and thermometers are present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guideline.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize food tables and disinfect changing tables. Please make sure staff members are spraying the changing tables thoroughly with the bleach so they are being properly disinfected.

Cots are used to nap for the children who are no longer in cribs.

The parent information is located on bulletin boards inside the entrance. There are also parent boards located in each classroom. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

During this pandemic, the program is taking the temperature of every child and staff member who enter the center. Parents are allowed to walk through the center, but cannot enter the classrooms. The center has a thorough cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting schedule. Toys are sanitized daily. There are no plush items in the center. Cots are used to nap and bedding is washed twice each week. Children are not allowed to bring any items from home into the center. Family style is not being used. Children are served their food. Staff members are wearing masks and the four and five-year-old children and school-age children are wearing masks. No outside visitors are allowed.

Staff members were observed to interact with the children at their level. Staff members were on the floor actively playing with the children. Staff members were enthusiastic and offered the children choices. Staff members moved around the room to provide all of the children with attention. They interacted in a positive manner and engaged the children in conversation. The staff members planned fun activities that were also educational. Child friendly music was playing in several of the rooms. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

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

Ms. Junkins states the best thing to come out of Covid 19 is the relationships that she and Ms. Pfalzgraf have built stronger relationships with their families.

Ms. Pfalzgraf states the staff members are good about asking questions and coming to them with concerns. They have great communication.

Ms. Junkins states they are trying to create appreciation for everyone. If a staff member or parent say something positive about a staff member or show appreciation for a staff member, that staff member's name is put in a drawing and the staff member can win a small prize. They draw once each month. Ms. Junkins states they are trying to appreciate the small things and build their team.

Ms. Junkins and Ms. Pfalzgraf make an amazing administrative team. They are organized and work hard to maintain a safe and friendly environment and follow licensing standards.

The rooms are decorated with multiple art projects created by the children and pictures of the children and their families. It makes the rooms very friendly and inviting.

The rooms are incorporating STEM activities into the lesson plans.

CUCCC-Westridge is NAEYC accredited (which expires 10/01/21) and has a Quality Rating System level of 4 (which expires 05/31/21). The center received The Courier Best of the Best Recognition for the best child care center in 2020.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each of the rooms.

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.

The center partners with the Waterloo School District to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

Each room provides the parents with a monthly newsletter. Parent communication is important to the program.

The infant room uses Owlets to assist in monitoring the infants.

The program has added new two-year-old playground equipment.

#### **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.