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

Name of Center: Safe Care Kids Center LLC **Enrollment:** 10 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50153

Street: 128 S Barclay ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50703 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 118 S Barclay ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

Director's Name: Kimberly Kemp **Phone Number:** 319-233-0889

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kalaziah Bruce **E-Mail:** safecarelearningcenter@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2024

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:** 09-04-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-06-2023

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	0	0	16	33	49
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/25/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Safe Care Kids Center in Waterloo. I met with Kimberly Kemp, the owner and director of the program. Ms. Kemp has an AAS in business administration and management. She previously owned a non-registered childcare home for one year and a registered childcare home for seven years. I also met with Kalaziah Bruce, the on-site supervisor. The program shares staff members with Ms. Kemp's other childcare center, Safe Care Learning Center.

Safe Care Kids Center was given permission to open on 07/13/18. It operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. The program primarily provides care for school-aged children but would care for preschool children also if the need arises. There are currently ten children enrolled. The facility has the capacity to care for 49 children. While the center can stay open until 10:00 pm, the children typically move to the Safe Care Learning Center facility at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Kemp also owns Safe Care Leaning Center, LLC in Waterloo. Safe Care Kids Center is in a free-standing building that was once a part of the Quakerdale residential treatment program. The two programs are located directly next to one another.

The program is primarily using the two connected rec room areas for childcare. This provides the children with two open spaces to interact. There is a shelving piece that divides the room and blocks the view from one room to the other. A staff member will have to be present in each room when both areas are in use. In addition to the rec rooms there are several small rooms in the facility. Ms. Kemp is using one room as a game room and one room as a library. During the summer they used a couple other small rooms for art and for teaching activities. The plan is for each small room to be assigned a center. There will be a room for science/STEM, library, music, creative arts and dramatic play. When you begin using these rooms, each room must have a staff member present for supervision. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, table toys, games, puzzles, science, math, dramatic play, art 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 three bathrooms located on the back side of the building. One bathroom has one toilet and one sink. The other two bathrooms have two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted. A staff member must accompany children to the back side of the building and supervise children walking into and out of the bathrooms. This may require you to have an additional staff member on site.

During the school year the program is only used for before and after school care, so a lesson plan is not mandated. The children do homework, read and engage in free play while at the program. They are only at this site for 2-3 hours each day after school. During the summer months a lesson plan is prepared. The program uses Scholars Achieving Future Entrepreneurship, a Safe Way Curriculum and Skilled Learners.

There is a phone in the kitchen and office. Please post emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number near the phones. The posting must also include the poison control number and other emergency numbers. This was cited in last year's report also.

Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams must be posted near all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the facility that are being used. Ms. Kemp had the postings ready to hang. They were taken down when they painted. Make sure you post them in all the smaller rooms once you begin to use them. A daily schedule was posted.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follow the guidelines. During the school year, this site only serves an afternoon snack. The children eat breakfast at Safe Care Learning Center in the morning before school and dinner there in the evening. During the summer months the program serves breakfast, lunch, a morning and afternoon snack. The children who stay for evening care also offered dinner and an evening snack. A menu was posted. The program uses a two month rotation of menus. There is a kitchen in the facility, but meals are made at Safe Care Learning Center and brought over to this site. Deborah Pendleton is the cook. There was a thermometer in the refrigerated portion of the refrigerator but you need to also have one in the freezer. This was cited in last year's report also. The program washes the dishes using the three-step method because the dishwasher does not work.

Member's Mark Sanitizer is used to sanitize the food tables. The table are being cleaned with soap and water prior to sanitizing. If something needs to be disinfected the program uses bleach and water.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The program only uses a grassy area and a concrete area for basketball. They also have use of the Quakerdale gym on occasion.

A radon test was completed in September 2023. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector could not be located during my visit but Ms. Kemp contacted someone to bring one over from the other program. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/06/23.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance hallway. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung.

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

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member recently had their first aid and CPR training expire but they are taking a class in October.

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 actively engaged with children in activities. The children had free play when they arrived and they ate snack. The children went to the library after snack and then went outside to play. Staff members maintained positive conversation with the children and asked them about how school went. Outside the staff members were providing good supervision. The staff members provided positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Kemp has made improvements to the program and her paperwork each visit I have made with her. They had a great visit today.

Ms. Kemp states they have three staff members pursuing their CDA through the TEACH program.

Ms. Kemp states Safe Care has hired a "behavior coordinator" named Senora Gilley. She has been a great asset. She observes and interacts with all the children but gets the parent's permission if she is going to counsel a child.

Ms. Kemp hopes to purchase the building for Safe Care Kids Center and Safe Care Learning Center. They recently painted Safe Care Kids Center.

Ms. Kemp states they utilize the Hope for Healing Program as a resource to help families with things such as utilities, transportation, personal supplies and they got one family beds.

The center has a parent committee that meets once each month.

The center utilized the free meal program this summer for the children.

The center can use the Quakerdale gym for gross motor play when they cannot go outside.

The program has a game room that has a small pool table, air hockey and video games. The center also has a library for the children.

The program is a bus stop for two Waterloo schools (Cunningham and Irving). They have three vans to provide transportation to and from school for the other children.

Ms. Kemp states they use the Brightwheel app for communication with families and among staff members. They also use the app attendance and for billing.

The Shared Service program through HHS introduced partnerships to First Children's Finance for financial assistance. She has also been introduced to the After School Alliance. She states the resources have been helpful.

The program has a secured entrance.

They offer flexibility to the families. They offer non-traditional hours for families who work second and third shift.

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.