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

Name of Center: Elkader Childcare and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19203

Street: 117 Gunder RD **City:** Elkader Iowa **Zip** 52043 **County:** Clayton

Mailing Address: PO Box 667, Elkader, IA, 52043

Director's Name: Jody Krugger **Phone Number:** 563-245-3333

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jody Krugger **E-Mail:** jkrugger@elkaderchildcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-22-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-13-2023

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 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	16	21	42	21	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 05-25-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 05/22/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Elkader Childcare and Learning Center. Jody Krugger is the director, but she was not present the day of my visit. She started at the center in September 2006 and became the director in March 2013. Ms. Krugger has a diploma in an unrelated field. She is a NAEYC member and an IAAEYC member. I met with Lynda Schaefers, who is in charge when Ms. Krugger is away from the center. There are eight staff members and a cook employed by the center.

The center is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. The center provides care to infants through school-aged children. A preschool program is not currently being offered because they do not have a teacher. There are currently 68 children enrolled in the childcare center.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant, infant 2 (one-year-olds), toddlers (two-year-olds), three-year-olds through school-age room. The school-age children use the three-year-old room. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, 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.

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

A variety of resources are used in the rooms to create lesson plans. Teachers develop their own lesson plans and activities are based on themes. The length of the theme depends on the children's interest level, but generally last a week. All the rooms had lesson plans available for review.

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

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The children receive breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. Meals are prepared on-site by Dwight Freitag, the full time cook. The children eat in their rooms. The food is being served to the children. A four-week rotation of menus is being used. Menus are adjusted for summer and winter months. Menus were posted. Dishes are washed using the three-step method. There are two refrigerators ad a chest freezer in the kitchen and a chest freezer in the basement. Thermometers were present. Most food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There was a couple different type of crackers in the infant room that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container and be dated.

The center offers one brand of formula. If parents prefer a different brand, they must supply their own. The center provides the baby food and cereal. Bottles are made in the room. Most are returned to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized. If they are washed in the room, they use the three-step method. There is a small refrigerator for the infant room in the adjoined storage room. A thermometer was present. There is a refrigerator in the Infant 2 room. A thermometer must be placed in the freezer portion.

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

I observed or discussed diaper changes with the staff members and proper procedures are being followed.

Mats and cribs are used to nap. Several mats are torn in the corners. The center has used tape to repair the corners. The tape is starting to curl up and should be replaced. I would recommend purchasing new mats when funds allow. In the Infant 2 room there are two cribs. The sheets were loose fitting. All cribs must have tight fitting sheets. The cribs in the infant room were tight fitting.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in May 2022 and is good for two years. The results were within the EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was present and located in the toddler room near the sinks and in the preschool room. Outlets were covered. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/13/23.

The parent information is located on a door inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license must be conspicuously hung. It was taken down when the center painted the hallway. It is typically posted near the office door. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

There are three separate fenced in areas. The largest area is in the back of the childcare center, and it provides a large grassy area for the children. There are hills that provide great entertainment during the winter months with sleds. There is a slide built into the hill. There is also a sandbox, riding toys, balls and a picnic table. There is a gazebo and trees that provides shade.

The middle area uses pea gravel for surface cushioning and there is also a grassy area. There are stepping stones and a balance beam. There is also a sandbox and some tunnels for the children to crawl through. Trees provide shade.

The third area is in the front of the childcare center. There are rubber tiles for surface cushioning and a cemented area for riding toys and sidewalk chalk. Helmets are used. There is climbing equipment with a slide and other activities. There are benches available. Trees provide shade.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. A staff member was expressive while reading to the children. She included the children in the story by asking them questions. She used the story to teach the children about counting. Staff members maintained positive conversation. They talked with the children about their weekend. They interacted with the children at their level. They sat on the floor and actively played with the children. They introduced them to activities. They used positive redirection when necessary. They provided the children with praise and were nurturing with upset children. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Schaefers states she has a good group of staff members. They get along well with one another, and they work well as a team.

Ms. Schaefers states they have several parents who donate items to the center when they are in need.

The program is in a secured building.

The center is a bus stop for preschool and school-aged children.

Ms. Schaefers states they are not taking the children on field trips, but they are having presenters come to the center for their summer program.

Ms. Krugger has been with the center since 2006 and the director since 2013. This provides stability to the program.

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.