Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Legacy ELC

Provider No.: 53184

Address: 6880 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

County: Linn

Director's Name: Shawn Rife

On-Site Supervisor: Shawn Rife

Phone Number: 3193508097

E-Mail: kavahouse@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/25/2026

Licensing Period: 06/11/2026 to 06/11/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/23/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	20	12	34	9	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Legacy ELC commenced operations on 6/11/2026 after an ownership change (formerly Lily Pad Day Care & Preschool - 23736). Legacy ELC operates year-round, M-F 6:30am-5:30pm serving infant through school-age children. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 36 on 8/25/2026.

Owner and combined director/on-site supervisor (OSS) is Shawn Rife. Ms. Rife has owned and been in the director role of previous licensed childcare programs, has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 8/25/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in age defined classrooms. The program has restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. The program has access to an outdoor play area. There is an on-site kitchen in which all foods are prepared. Since the acquisition a little over 60 days prior to this visit, Ms. Rife has already completed many building refreshers (e.g. flooring, paint, furnishings, room arrangements, menus, outdoor signage) and voiced goals regarding further upgrades while also pursuing quality initiatives (e.g. CACFP). On 8/25/2026, activities observed included infant cares, center play exploration and table-top activities. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation, the use of social graces and child choice. Routine transitions were observed including clean-up procedures and restroom/water breaks. On 8/25/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive behavior interventions when needed and engaged in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The vision of Legacy ELC is "...is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where every child feels valued, supported, and

excited to learn. We believe children thrive through meaningful relationships, play, exploration, and experiences that help build confidence and prepare them for the future..."

Legacy ELC has the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://www.legacyearlylearning.com/.

Owner and combined director/OSS Ms. Rife is a seasoned local entrepreneur having much previous experience with licensed childcare. Ms. Rife is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. Ms. Rife is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as her own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Rife acknowledged retaining some staff through the acquisition as well as hiring a few new ones. Ms. Rife discussed building a team of staff who are reliable, hard-working and committed to working with children.

Legacy ELC has an established area for required postings, has a family-program information area, offers newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and facilities a deep partnership with the families and children. Curriculum is built on the foundation of play, fostering curiosity and creativity in a safe environment. Curriculum does incorporate teacher inspired ideas, enrichment activities, guest speaker events, field trips, and seasonal celebrations.

Legacy ELC has and updates policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning reminders were observed in various areas. Ms. Rife and staff discussed how they continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Ms. Rife talked about having continued support from the community, enrolled families and local businesses as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

Legacy ELC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. While this childcare just changed ownership and commenced operations in June of 2026, through their previous childcare experiences Ms. Rife and the program's staff have successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and 2026 nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Regarding outdoor playground cushion surfacing, please note the following: The US Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook was recently updated and currently states "Loose-fill surfacing materials should be avoided for playgrounds intended for toddlers or children who frequently place objects in their mouths."

Install at least one handwashing sink in the 1yo room and 2yo room.

Install at least one child restroom with at least one toilet and one sink on the lower level.

The infant room shall have an updated diaper station, increased cabinets with counter-top area to increase separation of diapering and food/bottle preparation activities, lowered hand washing and bottle preparation sinks, and a dishwasher to increase infant bottle cleaning and sanitizing.

An additional fire evacuation crib is needed.

To help with the items in this section of the report, when it becomes available, please apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund

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(https://www.iowaccrr.org/child-care-providers/iowa-child-care-funding-opportunities/) designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with Ms. Rife oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Ms. Rife talked about being present in the center talking with staff, scheduling extra staff whenever possible, ensuring staff have breaks, finding safe tasks for a child to engage in outside of a group or classroom, encouraging staff to use good voice tones, switching assigned rooms, establishing child behavior plans, communicating with families and exercising required polices for enrollment and discharge of children as needed. Ms. Rife indicated when needed their program will seek assistance from Tanager Place for the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program, the local AEA and CCR&R child behavioral specialist.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 09/04/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.