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

Name of Center: Elkader Childcare and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 88 **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: 05-14-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **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 : Compliance on 04/03/24

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 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 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 05-29-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 05/14/24 I made an unannounced 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 sixteen staff members 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. There are currently 88 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 and there is a preschool 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. You must secure the television cords in the Red room so that children do not have access to them.

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 who were caring for children had lesson plans available for review. The preschool room was combined with another room the day of the visit and did not have a lesson plan.

There was a phone with emergency numbers posted in most of the classrooms. You must post emergency numbers near the phone in the infant room and in the Green room. Emergency numbers should also be posted near the phone in the kitchen. All the emergency number posting must have the center's address and phone number added to them. 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 except for the preschool room. Please post a daily schedule in this room.

The center is using Brightwheel to complete daily sheets. Brightwheel does not have an area to document the child's mood each day. This is a required area to document for children under the age of two.

There are bathrooms and changing tables throughout the center. In the preschool room you must post the handwashing procedures near both sinks in the room. There are two bathrooms in the preschool room, but one of the toilets has a sign that says do not use. You should get this toilet fixed.

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 Sami Lee; the full time cook. The children eat in their rooms. Family style is not being used. Ms. Lee is making a new menu each week. Menus were posted in the Brightwheel app but should also be posted in the center. Dishes are washed using the three-step method. There are two refrigerators and a chest freezer. Thermometers were present. The Crosley refrigerator needs to be cleaned. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The center offers one brand of formula, cereal and pureed vegetables and fruits. If parents prefer a different brand of formula or boughten baby food, they must supply their own. Bottles are made in the room and returned to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized. There is a small refrigerator for the infant room in the adjoined storage room. A thermometer could not be located. You must add a thermometer to this refrigerator. 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. In the one year old room the staff member held the child while cleaning and disinfecting the diaper changing table. This cannot occur. You should wash the child's hands and place them on the floor and then go back and clean and disinfect the table. In the two year old room the staff member left the gloves on through the changing process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting the new diaper and dressing the child.

Mats and cribs are used to nap.

There were expired over the counter medications in the Blue room and Yellow room. There is an outdated Epi pen in the Red room. These cannot be used and should be removed from the center.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There were no fire or tornado drills in January, February, or March 2023. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced every month.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in May 2022 and is only good for two years. The results were within the EPA guidelines. The radon test is due now.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was present and located in the entrance near the bathroom. Outlets were covered. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/13/23, with compliance on 04/03/24.

The parent information is located inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. 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 natural 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. There are benches and a picnic table for the children to rest.

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, a woodworking center and trucks for the children to play with. 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 for the children to rest. Trees provide shade.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten 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. Three files did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There are three outdated physicals, one missing physical and one physical that did not have a date on it. There were two missing immunization certificates and one invalid certificate because it was not signed or dated by medical personnel. Five files did not have information giving the center permission to secure emergency care. This is because the printed paperwork (I assume from Brightwheel) does not have an area for parents to sign off on permission to seek care. Parents must provide an emergency contact other than themselves. One file did not have this.

I reviewed three staff files. There was one outdated fingerprint record. One staff member had a SING background check completed six months after she started. These must be completed prior to a staff member starting. One staff member had an outdated first aid and CPR training. This only recently expired. One staff member has been employed longer than 90 days and did not have documentation for universal precautions, mandatory reporter or Essentials training.

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 had great teamwork. They provided the children with good reminders to wash their hands and assisted when necessary. Staff members expressed to me that they enjoyed their jobs, which is great to hear. Staff members offered the children choices and provided the children with praise. Positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members used play to discuss colors and patterns. They talked with the children about sharing. They played with the children at their level and had great interaction. Staff members were nurturing and attentive. The children appeared to enjoy themselves.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is involved in a community partner program. They state the community is critical in promoting the center's mission. Their goals for 2024 are finish the flooring project, support CDA training for two or three teachers, expand the preschool readiness program, provide age appropriate education and activities for the children and stay competitive in the local market.

In 2023 the center increased staff wages by 38 percent. Staff retention allowed the center to resume their regular hours of operation. The center put in new flooring in the infant room and hallway. They cleaned their ducts, updated their lighting and did a deep cleaning of the center.

Participating in the Community Partner Program allows the center to invest in the following capital improvements: Finish flooring project; replace or maintain the furnace; replace roof (in 2026); upgrade or repair playground equipment; payoff building loan; replace toilets.

Participating in the Community Partner Program helps the center provide the following for the children: rest time mats; cubbies for the children's items; updated shelving; update first aid kits; purchase new curriculum.

The program is in a secured building.

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

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
There was one outdated fingerprint record. One staff member had a SING background check completed six months after she started. These must be completed prior to a staff member starting.

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
One staff member has been employed longer than 90 days and did not have documentation for universal precautions, mandatory reporter or Essentials training.

109.9(2)a: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance: 5
Information lacking: Five files did not have information giving the center permission to secure emergency care. This is

because the printed paperwork (I assume from Brightwheel) does not have an area for parents to sign off on permission to seek care. Parents must provide an emergency contact other than themselves. One file did not have this.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 3
Information lacking: 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. Three files did not provide any dental emergency contact information.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 2
Number invalid: 1
There were two missing immunization certificates and one invalid certificate because it was not signed or dated by medical personnel.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 5
There are three outdated physicals, one missing physical and one physical that did not have a date on it.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
There were no fire or tornado drills in January, February, or March 2023. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced every month.

109.11(5): Telephone: Working non-pay phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting.List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone.
There was a phone with emergency numbers posted in most of the classrooms. You must post emergency numbers near the phone in the infant room and in the Green room. Emergency numbers should also be posted near the phone in the kitchen. All the emergency number posting must have the center's address and phone number added to them.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: I observed or discussed diaper changes with the staff members. In the one year old room the staff member held the child while cleaning and disinfecting the diaper changing table. This cannot occur. You should wash the child's hands and place them on the floor and then go back and clean and disinfect the table. In the two year old room the staff member left the gloves on through the changing process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting the new diaper and dressing the child.

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.