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

Name of Center: Valley Preschool & Childcare **Enrollment:** 53 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18217

Street: 23493 Canoe Rd **City:** Elgin Iowa **Zip** 52141 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: 23493 Canoe Rd, Elgin, IA, 52141

Director's Name: Kali Wenger **Phone Number:** 563-412-9801

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristina Lane **E-Mail:** valleychildcaredirector@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-21-2024

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:** 09-11-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-23-2023

Comments : Compliance on 11/20/23

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	14	19	32	10	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-28-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/21/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Valley Preschool & Childcare in Elgin. I met with Kali Wenger, the director of the preschool program. She has been with the program since 2011. Ms. Wenger is the lead teacher in the four-year-old preschool class. Ms. Wenger has a BA in early childhood education and a reading and English endorsement. Kristina Lane is the on-site supervisor. She was working in the infant room the day of my visit. She has been employed with the center since September 2020 and became the on-site supervisor in July 2024. Darcy Struve is the lead teacher for the three-year-old preschool class. Ms. Struve has been with the program since August 2010 and has her paraeducator certificate. Shirley Durnan is the assistant in Ms. Wenger's class. Ms. Durnan has been with the program since January 2012 and has her paraeducator certificate. Audra Duehring is the assistant in Ms. Struve's room and has her paraeducator certificate. The program employs a total of twelve adult staff members and four high school students.

Valley Preschool is in the North Fayette Valley Community Schools Early Childhood Learning Center. They added a childcare program that opened on 10/19/20. The childcare program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. They care for infants through preschool children all year around and the typically care for school-age children during the summer. The four-year-old preschool programs operates Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. They have the option of attending Monday through Friday or Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. The three-year-old children attend Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45 am until 3:45 pm. Every Wednesday they have an early out and the program operates from 7:45 am until 2:00 pm. The program partners with the Valley Community School District to provide the state-wide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. There are currently 53 children enrolled between the preschool and childcare programs.

The program operates out of two preschool classrooms and two childcare rooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with 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 the preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, listening, Ipads, woodworking, 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. Most materials were in good condition. The mats on the small bench in the library center of the toddler room is torn. This makes it unable to be properly sanitized. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

In the infant room there is one handwashing sink and three sinks for dishes and food prep. There are two changing tables. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. The toddler room has a bathroom with two toilets and there are two sinks in the room. They have one diaper changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. The three-year-old preschool room has a bathroom with one toilet and one sink and there is one sink in the classroom. Handwashing procedures were posted. The four-year-old preschool classroom has a bathroom with one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted. There is a sink in the four-year-old classroom. You must post handwashing procedures in this

area. This was cited in last year's report also.

There are bathrooms on the way to the cafeteria. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, one urinal and two sinks and the girl's bathroom has two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures must be posted in both locations.

There are bathrooms near the entrance. The boy's bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and three sinks and the girl's bathroom has five toilets and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

Mats are used to nap in the rooms for the children two and older. Cribs are used in the infant room. Mats were stored correctly. Bedding is washed weekly. Several mats were observed to be torn. Ms. Wenger states they are replacing the mast as money allows.

There is a phone in each room and emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number are posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram near the program door that goes to the hallway in the infant room and post the emergency diagram near the exit to the bathroom in the four-year-old preschool room. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The four-year-old preschool program utilizes the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Second Step, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Jolly Phonics and Handwriting Without Tears are also used. The three-year-old program uses the Creative Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears and a variety of other resources. Activities are planned around studies. The length of the study depends on the topic and the children's interest level. In the four-year-old class, Ms. Wenger completes the Creative Curriculum GOLD assessment tool om each child. The Iowa Early Learning Standards are used to guide the expectations for children and instructional practices. Valley Preschool follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). The program has implemented the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classrooms. Lesson plans were available for review in the preschool rooms.

A variety of resources are used to complete lesson plans in the childcare rooms. The toddler room has an activity calendar but need to complete a lesson plan with more activities to show me they have a plan for the day. This was cited in last year's report as well. The toddler room must begin developing a lesson plan that shows a plan for each day. The lead teacher in the toddler room, Courtney Miller, did ask for additional resources to enhance the children's learning. I am going to make a referral to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) on her behalf.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. The school uses well water and receives an annual water analysis and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector is typically in the kitchenette in the toddler room but was not present during my visit. I have asked Ms. Wenger to find out if the new fire system in the three-year-old classroom has a carbon monoxide system. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/23/23, with compliance on 11/20/23.

North Fayette Valley School is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but the licensed program is not. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by school cafeteria staff and preschool parents can purchase breakfast and lunch through the school for a fee. Lunch is included in the childcare fees and parents can purchase breakfast if they would like. Parents can bring breakfast for the children if they arrive before 7:30 am. The children three-years-old and younger eat all meals and snacks in their rooms. Family style is not used. The four-year-old preschool class eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria and go through the line cafeteria style. Snacks are eaten in their classroom.

The parents provide the morning and afternoon snacks for the preschool classrooms. Menus and snack calendars were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the preschool rooms.

In the three-year-old room the children washed their hands prior to lunch but then sat on the floor as the teacher prepared the plates. Children must wash their hands and go directly to the table to eat. Sitting on the floor negates the purpose of handwashing.

The childcare rooms are provided a morning and afternoon snack. The childcare program asks for food donations for snack. Snack calendars are maintained in the infant room. In the toddler room staff members are sporadic about documenting what is served for snack. Snacks must be documented every day. Accurate and detailed snack menus must be maintained for the morning and afternoon snack. There is a small kitchenette area off the toddler room where snacks are kept. In the kitchenette there were crackers and cereals 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. You cannot roll the open package inside of the box. This was cited in last year's report also and must be corrected. There are three sinks and a dishwasher in this area. Each room has a refrigerator. Thermometers were present in each of the rooms except for in the toddler room. You must put thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchenette off the toddler room.

During the summer months the childcare staff take turns preparing lunch for the program.

The parents provide formula, baby food and cereal for the infants. Children who eat table food are fed through the center. Bottles are washed using the three-step method in the room during the day and some are sent to the kitchenette at the end of the day to be put through the dishwasher.

Daily sheets are maintained through the ProCare app in the infant room.

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

There is a playground with two fenced in areas. The area for the preschool children has rubber tiles for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides, music, climbing walls, a tunnel and other activities. There is a sandbox with a shade structure over it. A shed is in the area that stores additional activities. There are some tires for the children to crawl on that sit on rubber mulch. There is a natural hill in the area. Trees are used for shade. There is a storage bin in this area that needs repaired.

The area for the younger children has all grass. There is a slide on the grass that has a fall height greater than eighteen inches. This requires fall surfacing. This was cited in last year's report also and must be removed immediately until you have fall surfacing in this playground. There is also a playhouse, riding toys, basketball hoop and a dramatic play center. There is a natural hill in this area for the children to play on. Trees are used for shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the childcare 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.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve 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. Five files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information and two files did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information. There were three missing physicals. One file did not have provide emergency numbers for someone outside of the parents. They should provide at least one person in case of an emergency. There was one invalid immunization certificated because it was not signed. The program has a school nurse to correct this.

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member had a physical missing.

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 observed to be actively engaged with the children in activities and play. During play the staff members encouraged children to use their imaginations. Staff members talked with children about sharing and using their words. In the infant room the staff members were nurturing to an upset child. They sat with the children on the floor. They take children for walks on nice days. In the four-year-old preschool class staff members did their assessment observations during play. They talked with the children about numbers and colors. Staff members in each room had a good routine for the children. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The four-year-old preschool class, the three-year-old preschool class and the childcare each have a separate private Facebook page for parents.

The ISU extension office visits the three and four-year-old preschool classrooms once each month. The preschool children are going to start library visits. They will be read a story and be able to check out a book.

The program partners with the Valley Community School District to provide the state-wide voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

The full day preschool students who are four years old can ride the school bus to and from school.

The program has parent/teacher conferences in the fall and the spring.

The program can use the school nurse when children are sick or injured.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff member had an outdated physical.

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: 3
There were three missing physicals.

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
In the three-year-old room the children washed their hands prior to lunch but then sat on the floor as the teacher prepared the plates. Children must wash their hands and go directly to the table to eat. Sitting on the floor negates the purpose of handwashing.

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.
Post the evacuation diagram near the program door that goes to the hallway in the infant room and post the emergency diagram near the exit to the bathroom in the four-year-old preschool room.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
The area for the younger children has all grass. There is a slide on the grass that has a fall height greater than eighteen inches. This requires fall surfacing. This was cited in last year's report also and must be removed immediately until you have fall surfacing in this playground.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
A variety of resources are used to complete lesson plans in the childcare rooms. The toddler room has an activity calendar but need to complete a lesson plan with more activities to show me they have a plan for the day. This was cited in last year's report as well. The toddler room must begin developing a lesson plan that shows a plan for each day. The lead teacher in the toddler room, Courtney Miller, did ask for additional resources to enhance the children's learning. I am going to make a referral to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) on her behalf.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
In the toddler room staff members are sporadic about documenting what is served for snack. Snacks must be documented every day. Accurate and detailed snack menus must be maintained for the morning and afternoon snack.

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
In the kitchenette there were crackers and cereals 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. You cannot roll the open package inside of the box. This was cited in last year's report also and must be corrected. Each room has a refrigerator. Thermometers were present in each of the rooms except for in the toddler room. You must put thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchenette off the toddler room.

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.