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

Name of Center: Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52203

Street: 620 N 8th ST **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51503 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 620 N 8th ST, Council Bluffs, IA, 51503

Director's Name: Mandy Sanders **Phone Number:** 712-227-0098

On-Site Supervisor(s): Emily Sward, Tracy Frush, Angie Thomas **E-Mail:** msanders@cbcsd.org

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 08-16-2023

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	24	38	32		94
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 05-16-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center is a new center that opened on 8-28-2023. This is a beautiful building and the current capacity is 76 children. The center is aligned to the Council Bluffs School district and operates on the school year calendar. Child care and preschool services are provided to children six weeks to five years old Monday through Friday, the preschool program has an early out on Mondays.
Mandy Sanders is the director. The on-site supervisors are Emily Sward, Tracy Frush, and Angie Thomas.
56 children are enrolled.
I met with Mandy Sanders and Angie Thomas during my licensing visit on 3-19-2024.

Observation of rooms:
An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center on 3-19-2024. There are five program rooms: Infant room, 1 & 2 year old room, 2 & 3 year old room, and two preschool rooms. The program rooms looked great and were in ratio. All rooms have a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate furnishings, and toys. There is a small motor skill room for younger children and a large motor skill room for older children. The motor skill rooms have many fun features i.e. the large motor room has beautiful murals of trees and clouds on the walls, a slide, rock wall, stage area, tree in the middle of the room with a track around the tree for trikes, and large soft blocks.
In the older toddler room two - three year olds please move food and toys away from the hand washing sink used for diaper changing. Also, do not sanitize toys at the diaper changing hand washing sink. Please review this with staff and explain cross contamination. You can also have the child care nurse consultant provide consultation and training.
The building also houses preschool rooms operated by the Department of Education and the Kids & Company Early Learning Center.
The children were having fun participating in a variety of activities i.e. playing, making cakes etc. The daily sheets looked good. High Scope Curriculum is used and Teaching Strategies Gold lesson plans/activities are used. Mandy provides a monthly newsletter to parents and the staff in the program rooms provide a weekly newsletter to parents. Home visits are done before school starts each year. Conferences are held and goals and developmental milestones are discussed. Family engagement is provided three times a year with building wide programs. The center has PTO - parent involvement.
There are car seat cubbies that are very convenient for parents.

Nutrition:
The meals are provided through the Council Bluffs Schools, there is a kitchen where some food prep is done. The center is on the national school lunch program and they follow the CACFP food program guidelines. Make sure all refrigerators/freezers have thermometers.
Menus were posted.

Health and safety:
Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication.
Monthly fire and tornado drills weren't completed for three months. The center will practice and document monthly fire and tornado drills.
The center is using Purell Surface for sanitizing and disinfecting. The three step bottles are used for sanitizing and

disinfecting 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. (make sure rooms have separate bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting)
Radon testing is required every two years in all program rooms and must be be under a 4.0 pCi/L, this should be monitored under the Iowa Department of Education.
The building is has all electric appliances. Maintenance issues are taken care of by the school maintenance staff.
The center has the required emergency policies and procedures.
Some rooms have aerosol spray cans, please don't use aerosol spray while the children are present.

Playground:
The center has a wonderful fenced playground, with padded surfacing. There is an infant/toddler area and an area for preschool age children. There are many fun features such as a climber piece of equipment, swings, a large pieces of equipment with slides, trikes/helmets, etc. Monthly playground safety inspections were being tracked on a laminated sheet/dry erase that would get cleared off. Please use a form that can maintain the documentation for the year.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in good order, one staff needed first aid/CPR training.
Child files were read - make sure all child files have emergency contact information for the doctor and the dentist - the name and phone number for the doctor and the dentist are required. One child needed a current physical.
Mandy has weekly staff meetings, and maintains contact with staff on a regular basis. Once a month staff receive a half day of professional learning. The staff meet education and training requirements through the Council Bluffs School district and the DHHS licensing. Professional learning is also provided through Juniper Gardens Children's Project through Kansas University, the center contracts with them to make sure they are providing high quality early childhood practices.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Anne E. Nelson is very impressive and provides high quality early learning programming. Your center is a wonderful resource for the community. The staff are very excited and proud of the new center. Mandy has worked very hard to learn licensing requirements, she is very organized, enthusiastic and supportive to the staff.
The center will apply for IQ4K.
The center applies for grants.

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

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.

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.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center for 8-1-2023 to 8-1-2025.
Off year licensing visit 3-19-2024.
Addendum to report to reflect current capacity is 76 children.

Administrative change - increase in capacity of 8 infant age children, the center is using an additional room. Capacity is now 76 children.

5-16-2025 Administrative change - increase in capacity to 94 children. The center is adding their sixth infant toddler program room. There are a total of eight program rooms that are licensed - six infant toddler rooms and two preschool rooms. Room 206 on the floor plan is now a licensed infant toddler program room.

*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.