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

Name of Center: Eldridge Preschool and Childcare **Enrollment:** 194 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25244

Street: 2150 E LeClaire RD Suite B **City:** Eldridge Iowa **Zip** 52748 **County:** Scott

Mailing Address: 2150 E LeClaire RD Suite B, Eldridge, IA, 52748

Director's Name: Natalie Kruse/Alisa Haedt **Phone Number:** 563-343-6348

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** natalie.kruse@northscott.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-17-2025

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: 09-06-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: 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		5	115	30	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 02-20-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 1/17/25. This center is one of two for-profit centers that are family owned and operated by Natalie Kruse and Alisa Haedt. Both are qualified as center directors. Both were present on the day of this visit along with other staff. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. School age care is offered before and after school and on non school days.

The center consists of several smaller program rooms. Each room has a color name identification and also somewhat of an activity designation. During the preschool sessions, the children start in their designated "homeroom" and then rotate through the various rooms on a schedule. The children stay with their teachers throughout this rotation. Program rooms are organized and have an adequate supply of materials to support program needs. The banquet hall/traditions room is a very large room that is somewhat divided for activities and children rotate through the area in groups throughout the day as well as for some of the meals and snacks, nap, and large motor. A portion of the room also includes several tables with chairs for meals and snacks. The center includes hallway boys and girls restroom areas. There are also two separate restroom areas (boys/men and girls/women) off of the traditions banquet room with several toilets/sinks each. A fold down/wall diaper station is in one of the stalls of the traditions area restroom and another is located in the single restroom area that is mainly used by staff. All children must travel for diaper changes, to use the restroom, and to wash hands. All program space was observed.

The center does not participate in the CACFP. The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, and snack. Breakfast and lunch are supplied by the center and prepared on site. Parents are required to bring snack on a rotating basis for preschool. Parents of child care children also have to bring a supply of pre-packaged snacks for their child for the month as well as a gallon of juice monthly.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Both the owners/directors have many years of experience in child care. Both owners have Bachelor and/or Master level educational backgrounds including; early childhood and special education, and consulting. The staff appear to work well together. The center is bright with plenty of windows and is nicely painted and decorated to present a child friendly atmosphere. Children’s crafts and projects are posted throughout the building. Staff compile binders for all children to include activities/projects they have completed over the year. The center loans out "book buddy" bags to children/families. The staff were once again observed to be engaged in activities with the children throughout the building. The center has a large supply of books for the children that are organized by topic so that the staff can easily access them for activity planning. Licensing documentation and staff and child files are highly organized.

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

STAFF FILES:
109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current

certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed mandatory reporter certification expired 8/2024 (center director provided updated certificate completed subsequent the visit).
2. _2_ staff files reviewed do not have annual training hours (one file no hours since 10/2023, another file no hours since 2/2023).

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
1. Staff observed to lose track of children on a few occasions, at times leaving children briefly unsupervised or at least not accounted for by the staff who was/were responsible. This happened during transition from room to room, from outside play back to inside the building, and when finishing the lunch transition.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. 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.
1. Kitchen door observed open several times giving direct access to the kitchen with children being just outside of the area. This has been discussed with the center previously on numerous occasions.
2. Some lunch tables were not properly cleaned and sanitized immediately prior to/between groups of children during lunch service.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. Ensure parents authorized the school district bus as an authorized pick up for children who leave the center on the bus and that this is included in the annual update.
2. Kitchen area appears to need a through cleaning including floors and cabinets and insides of drawers, etc.
3. Discussion occurred regarding need for staff to be at the tables with children supervising children during.

The center will continue with a full license. The center is directed to correct all items cited and the items noted above in this section of the report and to submit a written summary to the licensing consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. The written response shall be submitted within 30 days of the receipt of this report. Thank you.

*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.

VI. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: The center director, Natalie Kruse, provided the following written response/action plan to the licensing report in regards to the safety concern:

  "109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
  Natalie Kruse and Aymee Patton develop individual groupings each morning and each afternoon. Natalie and Aymee will make sure each individual groupings lists are attached to a clipboard for each employee to carry with them throughout the day. Staff have been instructed to look at their clipboard and check off each child's name before and after they leave each classroom. Natalie Kruse and Aymee Patton will monitor throughout the morning that staff are performing "head counts". The afternoon Supervisor/closer will be responsible for checking that this same procedure is taking place in the afternoon. At the end of their shift, staff will turn in their grouping lists to the Director/Office Assistant and/or Afternoon Closer. Each classroom now has a class picture posted with each child's name for staff to use for reference. Natalie Kruse created and distributed "Helpful Hints" handout for staff to review when they are transitioning from room to room throughout the day.
  Staff will take their clipboards with them when they exit the building. Staff will check off each child in their group prior to walking to the playground. When they get to the playground, they will perform another head count by checking names off their group list attached to their clipboard. When staff are preparing to exit the playground, they will perform another headcount by checking names on their clipboard to ensure all of their kids are accounted for and make a safe return back into the Center. Natalie Kruse and Aymee Patton will be frequently monitoring the Center cameras to ensure that this is taking place throughout the day."

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 4/8/2025 2:51:05 PM