Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kidleidoscope Early Primary Explorers Academy

Provider No.: 53059

Address: 2302 West St, Sioux City, IA, 51103

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Shanell Zelmer

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122212103

E-Mail: kidscope.admin@icloud.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/30/2026

Licensing Period: 12/04/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/05/2025

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	10	10	10	8	38
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I conducted an unannounced visit on March 30, 2026, and met with Director Shannon Zellner. Ms. Zellner has many years of experience in the childcare field and previously operated a Registered Child Development Home B. She has since transitioned to providing care in her own center. Shannon also maintains numerous trainings that support her preparedness and competency in caring for children.

The center is located in the former Angel House Daycare and Preschool building. Director Shannon Zellner is currently utilizing two rooms for childcare services. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and serves children from infancy through school age. There are six children currently enrolled, with 3 children present during my visit.

All areas of the program were observed, including classroom environments and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, playground use, field trip and transportation practices, and an administrative file review. Classrooms contained a sufficient number of toys, cribs, and age-appropriate equipment. The rooms were colorful and inviting, with ample natural light. Staff were observed actively engaging with children by sitting on the floor to play, assisting with meals, supporting children during activities, explaining rules, and reading stories. Numbers, shapes, the alphabet, and children's artwork were displayed throughout the classrooms, creating a developmentally appropriate learning environment.

A theme-based curriculum offers several benefits for young children and supports development across multiple domains. It provides a clear structure while still allowing creativity and hands-on learning. When activities are connected to a central topic, children have repeated exposure to concepts in different ways, which strengthens understanding and memory. Themes also help children make meaningful connections between real-life experiences and what they are learning in the classroom. This approach supports language development by introducing new vocabulary related to each theme and encourages social interaction as children explore materials together. It also helps staff plan intentional activities that support cognitive, physical, and social-emotional growth while keeping learning engaging and fun. The consistency of a weekly or monthly theme gives children a sense of routine, while the variety within each theme keeps them curious and excited to explore.

Meals and snacks are prepared onsite and meet CACFP guidelines, and food-storage practices were observed to be appropriate. Please date and put opened food into another container or Ziploc. A fully stocked first-aid kit was available for treating minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. Radon testing has been completed, is complete. A furnace inspection needs to be completed. A fenced-in playground is located adjacent to the building. They have a cement riding area with grass as a surface in the middle. They currently do not have any climbing equipment and that is one of the center's goals of this program. They do have adequate outside toys to engage children.

This center goal is to increase enrollment.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is in the early stages of establishing itself. Shannon has reached out to local businesses and churches to share information about her program and generate community interest. Her outreach efforts have helped increase awareness of the center in the community and have begun building relationships that may support future enrollment growth.

Shannon has worked cooperatively with CCR&R and has utilized available resources to support the development and improvement of her program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(2): Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.Mandatory reporting requirements.Notice of availability of the handbook.Name and contact information of the HHS licensing consultant.Program activities and menus.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at the main entrance of the center.

109.9(1)b: 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.

109.9(2)a-c: 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 as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.

109.9(2)d: 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(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.

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

A corrective action plan is required for the child care program due to several areas of noncompliance. The provider does not have the required annual fire-related documentation, the mandated postings are not displayed, and there is no daily menu or daily schedule posted for parents. In addition, the Emergency Preparedness Plan has not been completed.

The provider is given 30 days to correct all identified noncompliance items. At the end of the 30-day period, Licensing will return to the center to verify that all deficiencies have been fully addressed and are now in compliance.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Shannen their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. (

There are currently two staff members working in the program, and enrollment remains low at this time. Shannon reports that she is able to recognize when she needs to step away briefly and will request assistance as needed to maintain appropriate supervision. During the interview process, Shannon also asks potential staff about personal triggers or stress points, and together they develop strategies to ensure that no one becomes overwhelmed while working with the children.

Continue to work with CCRR consultants. You are encouraged to hire an onsite supervisor who could assist with

paperwork

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: I completed an unannounced visit on 05/11/26 to check on corrections needed to be made. All postings are hanging up. Physical staff exams have been completed. Emergency Contacts have been added to child's files as well as current doctor and dentist information. Food has now been dated when opened and storage is appropriate. Center is compliant in all areas at this time.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 5/12/2026 11:43:10 AM

Date: 04/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.