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

Name of Center: Eagle's Wings Preschool & Childcare **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17747

Street: 600 NE 2nd ST **City:** Eagle Grove Iowa **Zip** 50533 **County:** Wright

Mailing Address: 600 NE 2nd ST, Eagle Grove, IA, 50533

Director's Name: LuAnne Pederson **Phone Number:** 515-603-3621

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mercedes Meyer **E-Mail:** ewings@goldfieldaccess.net

Date(s) of Visit: 06-19-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 07-12-2023

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 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	12	14	73	30	129
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 06-19-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Eagles Wings Childcare center on06-19-25 where I met with the center director, LuAnne Pederson. LuAnne is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood care and education. Mercedes Meyer was named as the assistant director and is qualified for that position having been with the center since 2021 and completing on-going professional development. The program is located in a free standing building that was designed as a child care center in Eagle Grove. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The center provides preschool, and child care services to infants through school age children. There are currently 56 children enrolled in the center served by 14 staff. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout and programming of the center and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The center has several classrooms designated by age groups. There are two infant rooms with one for children under 1 year of age and the other for infants 1-2 years of age. Subsequent classrooms serve children 2-3 yoa, 4-5 yoa, formal preschool, and school age children. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has direct access to restroom facilities from the classroom and additional sinks in the room to facilitate hand washing. Rooms with younger children also have changing stations present in the rooms. Each room has secondary exits either with direct access to the outdoors, or through another classroom. Emergency exits were observed to open freely and easily. Each room was observed to be clean. There were several maintenance issues that were present throughout the center which included issues such as damaged cabinetry doors, and malfunctioning toilets. While these issues did not rise to the level of being an immediate risk these do need to be addressed. Each classroom had activity centers created through the placement of shelving, play structures, and furniture that were arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

All staff were engaged with the children during the time of the visit but some issues and differences were noted. With regard to supervision one older school age child was observed to have been sent into the center from the playground on their own. While there was a teacher present in the building and in a position where they could observe the children during the entire time there was no communication between staff regarding transfer of responsibility, nor did the teacher(s) from the playground position where they could observe the child that entered the building and the children on the playground. Children must be within sight and sound of staff at all times, and the center should implement specific procedures regarding the transfer of responsibility for children. Another issue that was reviewed was with regard to infants when doing tummy time and the need for staff to be in the immediate vicinity meaning with in arms length of the children so that they can provide supervision and care as needed. When interacting with the children the staff did generally use positive tones and word choices when speaking with children. One teacher was heard to use a more angry and frustrated sounding tone and while not rising to the level of being a licensing violation did stand out in contrast to the other staff. While not all classrooms had a copy of the planned schedule and curriculum posted it was obvious that they were following schedule as classrooms moved through various activities such as engaging in center play, outdoor play, and snack/meal service. The classrooms that did have a copy of the planned curriculum had a similar theme focus of Fathers Day with specific activities as was appropriate to the ages of the children present. The center continues to use positive behavior management approaches such as transition activities and reminders of expected behavior, redirection, and guided problem solving. Ratio

was maintained in classrooms as required by age.

Good health and safety policies and practices were observed during the visit. I was not able to observe a diaper change during the current visit but the teacher in the infant room has been with the center for a number of years and in prior observations did follow the established procedures. Good handwashing practices were observed with both the children and staff washing when required such as prior to meals, and following restroom use, but also at other times such as following meals. First aid kits were present in classrooms and while taken as a whole the center does have materials necessary to address most common first aid needs individual kits do need to be reviewed and replenished. Each classroom had a phone with emergency numbers posted. Chemical cleaners, medications, personal items, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible with the exception of one classroom where the teacher had left a purse on a counter. Safe sleep practices were followed for infants under 1 year of age. For older children the center does make use of cots and cot sheets were observed to be present. Some items present in the infant/toddler rooms included toys with parts that are smaller than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length which are considered choking hazards. These need to be removed from classrooms with children under 3 years of age. Children under 4 years of age can still be prone to mouthing toys and items containing small parts should be kept in storage and brought out for supervised play for children.

The center does have a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A menu is prepared and the meal served on the day of the visit was consistent with the posted menu. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no evidence of insect or rodent infestation. Good food storage and handling practices were generally observed for both dry pantry and refrigerated items though some items in the dry pantry were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after they had been opened. Meals are served in the classrooms and the teachers sit at the tables and eat with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits. Teachers wore food service gloves, and used measured scoops when serving children.

The center completed renovating the infants and toddler playground which had the fall surfacing replaced with a unitary pour in place material. An awning shade structure was installed. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. The playground area for the older children had a large climbing structure which is showing it's age but was in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing and has been displaced creating a tripping hazard at the point of entry from the main walkway. A wooden gazebo shade structure was observed to have weathered over the winter resulting in the support posts having surfaces that need to be sanded and sealed to reduce the risk of splinters. The playground fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair for the older playground, but which had some gapping in one area of the toddler playground. There appeared to be an area where either children or animals had created a depression beneath the fencing which was more than 3 1/2 inches but less than 9 inches which creates an entrapment risk. This does need to be addressed by adding material, installing a barrier, or adjusting the fence.

Administrative records were reviewed and all required notices for consultant contact, mandatory abuse reporting, no smoking, and the center license were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. During the visit other required postings for emergency fire/tornado evacuation were missing by some exits, were placed where they were not by the door were were obscured, and/or did not have both diagram and written instructions. Postings for hand washing procedures was not present by all sinks used for hand washing as required. In reviewing staff and child files the center is currently using an electronic communication application to provide information to parents including infant daily sheets. When reviewing that information it was noted that staff were not include information on daily activity and disposition as required. This was identified and cited in the prior licensing visit. The center also uses a combination of the communication application, and hard copy files to maintain documentation for children and staff. Mercedes was in the process of completing a self-review audit of both staff and child files. The staff files review was complete and found to be accurate when compared to randomly selected files that were reviewed. The self-audit identified 3 needed an updated physical, 1 needed a renewed FBI background check, and Mercedes was verifying which staff needed on-going Child Abuse Reporter training. The self-audit review for child files was approximately 25% complete but when compared to the files was accurate. For those files that had been reviewed 4 needed an updated physical. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates all were available and current. The center had completed radon testing in August 2024 and the levels were well below the cutoff limit and the center does not have a mitigation system. Luanne identified that the center did just have new hot water heaters installed, and furnace work completed last summer.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has completed renovation of the outdoor playground space for the toddlers, and LuAnne identified that the center is planning to renovate the space for the school age children.

LuAnne identified that Mercedes has done an excellent job of taking over the review and maintenance of the center records.

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.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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: 3

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- Documentation of daily Activity and Disposition was not being maintained for each child under 24 months of age as required. -- NOTE 2ND YEAR CITED

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: 4

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.
-- Required postings that included both diagram and written instructions for fire and tornado evacuation were not posted by all exits from all programming spaces as required, and/or were obscured.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- A child was observed to enter the building from the playground to use the restroom without staff accompanying the child. Staff must be located within arms reach of infants when children are doing tummy time on the floor.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Items and toys with parts that can easily break off which would be considered a choking hazard need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Wooden structures of the outdoor playground need to be sanded/sealed to prevent splinters. Gaps in playground fencing that can be an entrapment risk need to be corrected. Purses need to be stored where they are inaccessible to children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.