Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 52203

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

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Mandy Sanders

On-Site Supervisor: Emily Sward, Tracy Frush, Angie Thomas

Phone Number: 7122270098

E-Mail: msanders@cbcsd.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/11/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/19/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	Year-round	School-Year	Summer Only
Sunday			
Monday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

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

1. Basic Overview

Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center is a new center that opened on 8/28/23. This is a beautiful building and the current capacity is 94 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 early out on Mondays. Mandy Sanders is the director. She has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. The on-site supervisors are Emily Sward, Tracy Frush, and Angie Thomas. Ninety children are enrolled. I met with Mandy Sanders during my licensing visit on 9/11/26.

Observation of rooms:
An unannounced licensing visit was made to Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center on 9/11/26. There are eight programming rooms which consist of three infant rooms, one room for 24-30 months, two rooms for 30 months and up, and two preschool rooms. The programing rooms looked great and were in ratio. All rooms have a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate furnishings and toys. The children's art was displayed throughout the building. Lesson plans and the daily schedules were posted in every room. The teachers in each room make the lesson plans. They use the High Scope, Everyday Counts, Numbers Plus, and Read it Again for their curriculum. The daily sheets looked good. There is a small motor skills room for younger children and a large motor skills room for older children. The motor skills rooms have many fun features such as 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. The building also houses preschool rooms operated by the Department of Education and the Kids & Company Early Learning Center. Most of the children were napping during my visit. The daily sheets looked good. Mandy provides a monthly newsletter to parents and the staff in the program rooms provide a weekly newsletter to parents. Home visits are made before school starts each year. Conferences are held and goals and developmental milestones are discussed. Parent teacher conferences are held twice

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a year. Family engagement is provided three times a year. 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 has a kitchen manager that distributes the meals and snack to the rooms. The center is on the national school lunch program and they follow the CACFP food program guidelines. Menus were posted. Proper food storage was observed. Most of the refrigerators and freezers had thermometers; however, some were broken. Please make sure all of the refrigerators and freezers have a thermometer and the temperatures are monitored to make sure they are kept at the optimal temperatures.

Health and safety:
Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. The center has a nurse on site. First-aid kits are in every room. Monthly fire and tornado drills were completed. The center uses Purell Surface for sanitizing and disinfecting. The three-step bottle process is 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. Toys are sanitized after the afternoon nap, at the end of the day, and throughout the day as they have support. They also have a dirty bucket to keep mouthed toys until they are sanitized. Radon testing was completed in August 2023 and was in the acceptable range. Radon testing is due every five years if the results are below 4.0 pCi/L. The boiler inspection expires on 6/30/27. Maintenance issues are taken care of by the school maintenance staff. The center has the required emergency policies and procedures. Sheets for the cots and cribs are washed weekly. Diapering procedures are posted at the diaper changing stations.

Playground:
The center has a wonderful, fenced playground with poured in place fall surfacing. There are an infant/toddler area and two areas for preschool age children. There are many fun features such as a climbing piece of equipment, swings, a large piece of equipment with slides, trikes/helmets, blocks, balancing toys, etc. Monthly playground safety inspections are done.

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

Administrative records:
Six children’s files were reviewed and were in excellent order. Four staff files were reviewed and were in excellent order. 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.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Anne E. Nelson is very impressive and provides high-quality early learning programming. The 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 of the staff. Mandy identified their strengths as their staff are highly qualified and the professional development they offer is a strength. There is a lot of support for staff including a behavior consultant and curriculum specialist. AEA provides early childhood consultants four days a week for the district. The center is IQ4K Level 3. The center applies for grants. The Brightwheel App is used for communication and reporting. The center corrected the citations from last year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full license is recommended for 8/1/25 to 8/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Mandy her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. All staff take EC-PBIS training when they are hired. Staff walk through the center every three months and all staff have an evaluation process.

Date: 09/18/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.