

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

**Name of Center:** Danville Early Learning Center      **Enrollment:** 129      **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38069

**Street:** 419 S Main ST      **City:** Danville      Iowa      **Zip:** 52623      **County:** Des Moines

**Mailing Address:** 419 S Main ST, Danville , IA, 52623

**Director's Name:** Becky Blomme      **Phone Number:** 319-392-4627

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Luann Walker - secretary      **E-Mail:** becky.blomme@danvillecsd.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 03-31-2020

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received**      X      **Yes**      No      NA      **Date Signed:** 11-19-2019

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-12-2017

**Comments :** Does Comply. Fire inspections must be completed every three years. Conducted by State Fire Marshall Curt Seddon. A new inspection is due this month.

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

**Financial Type:** X      Profit      Non-Profit      NA

**Accreditation:** 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

<b>HOURS:</b>	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
<b>LICENSE CAPACITY</b>	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	11	23	54	33	121
Summer					0

**QRS Rating:** N/A

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b>	
X	<b>FULL</b> license from 01-01-2020 to 01-01-2022
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from
	<b>DENIAL</b> of initial application
	<b>SUSPENSION</b> of license
	<b>REVOCACTION</b> of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Date: 04-09-2020

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

Danville Early Learning Center is located inside Danville Elementary in a residential area of Danville. The center operated for several years under the Department of Education. The center is owned and operated by the School District.

The program consists of three separate classrooms for infants, toddlers, and school age children as well as two preschool classrooms. An office and conference room completed the facility. The daycare/preschool rooms are within the school and can only be accessed by first entering the school building. Visitors to the school must check into the building at the front office. When a visitor arrives they must enter the front door, as all other doors are locked. A visitor badge will be given at the time of sign in to fill out. Visitors are directed by office staff to wear the tag in a visible area. Visitors must also sign out.

Ms. Blomme has directed this program for 4 years. She was formerly a Director at another DHS licensed preschool for 8 years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree. The Preschool and Elementary office assists Ms. Blomme with record keeping for staff and children. I arrived at the center on 3/31/20 for an off year visit. I met with the Director, Becky Bloome, School Principal Steve Ida and Luanne Walker, Office Manager and On Site Supervisor. Ms. Walker has also worked in the center for the past several years. The program was in session and children were present during this visit. All program areas were observed at that time. Another pm on site supervisor has been appointed so that a Director or On Site Supervisor is present during programming. The visit this year consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, administrative review and discussion on each. However, the main focus/topic of this year's visit was to discuss health and safety practices as it pertains to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Students in both the 3 year old and 4 year old program are taught Music, Art, and PE by licensed teachers. Students in the preschool program also have field trips, special guests, and assemblies that the rest of the building participates in.

**PHILOSOPHY**

By utilizing the approach of a developmentally appropriate program of learning, we provide each individual the opportunity to develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually as a whole person. We believe that interaction with other children in a stimulating environment is vital for success in life. It will be curiosity that stimulates the learning process. We will provide a challenging environment with a variety of opportunities for learning and encourage them to use their freedom to exercise their abilities and potential.

Observation of Rooms: The classrooms are self-contained. They have phones and direct access to the outdoors. The curriculum is Creative Curriculum. Materials were organized and child accessible. The Center appears to have an adequate amount of equipment including games and activities that appear to be of high quality. Interest centers available to the children include: blocks, children's literature, dramatic play, toys and games, puzzles and small manipulatives, art, music and movement, science and discovery, sensory tables, writing center, and computer area.

The room in use was appropriately staffed and staff were engaging with the children. Ratio was met and maintained on the

visit. We discussed the importance of outdoor play at this time.

Room arrangements are neat and organized. On past visits we discussed blind spots and room arrangement. This did not appear to be an issue on the visit. The program should have one toilet and sink for every 15 children in each room. Hand washing posters were easily observed. Storage is located in plastic crates and closets. Room lighting consists of both natural light from windows as well as adequate interior lighting. The classroom and bathroom facilities were observed to be clean.

All classrooms have new sensor lighting, and a newer ventilation system. The program also has new fire alarms and an emergency lighting systems. Heating and cooling is provided by a Geo-Thermal system and is forced through ceiling vents.

The infant room moved to a larger room 3 years ago. Safe Sleep practices should be utilized in this room. We measured to ensure space requirements of 40 square feet per child are met. On past visits we discussed staff positioning so that they could observe infants by sight and sound at all times as we have in years past.

The toddler room has an ample amount of space for toddlers to engage in a variety of gross motor activities.

Center Nutrition: Breakfast, a noon meal, and snacks are provided by the School. Breakfast and lunch are prepared in the school kitchen by school staff. Preschool students in the voluntary preschool program bring a snack each day. Snacks are prepared by daycare staff and served in the classroom. The school chooses what will be served for snack to all other classrooms but the 4 year olds. The school follows USDA guidelines.

I observed food storage practices. Dry goods were not stored appropriately. Open food was placed in a sealed container or bag. Generally expired or opened food is not an issue. Thermometers should be in each refrigerator/freezer unit. Cooling temperatures should be 40 degrees or below. Freezing temperatures should be zero degrees or below.

Meals are served family style in each classroom. Children dine at child size tables and sit in small chairs. During snack, the children are read to and they discuss books or staff sit and visit with the children. Food menus for all meals and snacks should be kept on hand.

Center Health and Safety: Staff and I reviewed prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent I reviewed medication policies and procedures. Medications (including sunscreen) should be stored in their original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact when on the premises. OSS Walker has every medication in the center logged in a central location. This is an improvement and duly noted.

An ill/injured area is the preschool office area or a designated space in each classroom.

Storage and maintenance of first aid kits were reviewed. Many supplies were present to address minor trauma. The Director had the most recent first aid kit checklist. Labeled first aid kits were identifiable and easy to access in a high cabinet in each room. I discussed this with staff. The school nurse can be accessed during school hours if necessary.

I reviewed environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment. Radon testing is due every 2 years. Testing is current and readings are below 4 pciL. The school installed a Geothermal heating and cooling system so an annual fuel burning appliance inspection is not required. A non-battery operated carbon-monoxide detector is in the preschool room. The center has outdoor air exchanges throughout the school so ventilation is adequate. The Elementary School building was built in 2013. As a result a lead paint assessment is not required. The school building is on Danville City water. As a result, a private analysis is not required.

I reviewed general regulations regarding safety policies and procedures. Storage is not an issue in the classrooms.

Lighting was appropriate at nap time. All cots were spaced at least two feet apart or more. Cribs should be spaced at recommended distance. More on this topic can be found at Caring For Our Children.

The program has a pet guinea pig in the preschool room. The cage and guinea pig were clean and the animal appeared to be healthy. The Director indicated all plants in the rooms are on the safe plant list.

Each program room should accommodate each child so that they have at least 35 square feet of usable floor space.

I reviewed emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado. Tornado and fire drills should be practiced and documented once a month. The entire program area has secure windows and reinforced walls and ceilings. The center/preschool is the safe area for the Elementary School. When tornado drills occur all elementary children are taken to this area.

Electrical outlets are child safe. Staff personal belongings were stored out of the children's reach in cabinetry.

I reviewed general regulations regarding sanitation policies and procedures. Sufficient toileting articles and hand washing supplies were observed in the restrooms.

Wipes or any other materials should not be stored on changing tables.

Staff have reviewed sanitizer/disinfectant by the Iowa Department with the of Public Health. Sanitizers and Disinfectants vary in each room. Each classroom has a set of opening, nap time, closing and weekly cleaning tasks.

Center Playground: The center uses a newly installed outdoor play area on school grounds specifically designed for preschool age children. The area is fenced with tall chain link fence. The area is not naturally shaded. Shade is provided by the building and the storage shed. The area features large, anchored, metal/plastic climbing and activity toys. It also contains benches, basketball hoops and a swing set. The entire play area is surfaced with rubber matting. Children also use riding toys on the rubber matting surface. Riding toys are available but kept in a nearby shed.

Screws/bolts on the fence should be cut, or capped. No more than two thread bolts should be exposed. When in outdoor play each child should have a minimum of 75 square feet of usable space. The bottom of the fence is loose and gaps in between the gates and the fence should be measured. Maintenance plans on fixing the fence this spring.

Playground inspections should be conducted and documented on a monthly basis.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips: Teachers may decide and are encouraged to conduct short, unannounced field trips including but not limited to: walks as a class around the perimeter of the building and/or nearby neighborhoods. The center provides no transportation. Transportation for field trips is provided in school bus vehicles owned and operated by Danville School District. All children in the program have signed parental waivers to ride the regular school bus. A first aid kit is on every school bus. CPR certified staff and emergency contacts are taken on field trips.

Center Administrative Records: Redirection is used on a regular basis.

Postings, including Emergency evacuation postings and mandatory abuse reporter, no smoking postings were observed hanging in the rooms on the parent boards. The state consultant contact information were also present. Special upcoming events calendars were also posted.

Emergency evacuation maps as well as 911, Emergency and Poison Control numbers were posted. Center phone and address should be posted by the phones in each room.

Annual emergency procedures plan is currently being drafted per Director Blumme. Staff should sign acknowledgement of such. This has been noted the past 3 years.

I reviewed regulations regarding required written policies provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook and staff handbook. The handbook contains limited and unlimited access policies. The Center does have a biting policy which is available in the handbook.

The program must utilize the correct Volunteer Form if volunteers are utilized. School personnel can volunteer but not be in ratio as staff.

Child records and incident reports are kept in the Preschool Office. All children are required to have updated physicals and immunizations, emergency contact information, dental and medical provider information and pick up authorization information. Each child should have an Allergy Action Plan that has a food or other type of allergy. Incident and injury reports are on file. LuAnn Walker, Preschool Secretary/On Site Supervisor is the record keeper for child records.

Staff files are now accessible from the daycare. This is an improvement from years past and is duly noted. We reviewed required training such as Universal Precautions, CPR/First Aid, Mandatory Reporter training and professional development. Updated physicals are due at start of employment and every 3 years. We reviewed current Iowa Criminal background checks and Fingerprint results.

### **III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Teaching Strategies GOLD is the assessment tool used by the programs to evaluate and track each child's individual development.

The program meets a childcare need in the community.

The center may occasionally access the gym for gross motor activity.

#### Interactions

I provide positive feedback to the staff. I comment on what I'm seeing and encourage them. When I'm in the room I model my expectations, ie. sitting with the kids, having conversations while they are playing.

The students are greeted at arrival. The staff interact with the kids during centers. The staff model actions and sing during songs and fingerplays.

The kids are very accustomed to the staff in each room. When staff have to cover for others due to illness, vacations etc. some children's behavior changes such as difficulty eating, napping etc.

#### Workforce stability

We use Indeed. I have the staff look over the applications. Lead teachers are a part of the interview process.

I tell the staff thank you every time I'm in a room. Positive criticism, carry-ins, pot lucks. I try to be positive. When a staff notifies me of their intention to leave, I ask what I can do to change their mind ie. more hours, fewer hours, different classroom, different work times

#### Workforce skill development

Again positive comments and thanking them. We have many parents that tell the staff how thankful they are for them. I feel we have a family atmosphere. The staff work together to cover each other. Staff are friends outside of work.

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

1. 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. This has been a violation and discussed with this program on prior visits. School staff may not be utilized for the childcare center unless they have been finger printed and gone through required trainings. All staff hired must have checks completed.

2. 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, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

3. 109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intruders within the center, intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children. Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, earthquakes, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards. If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.

109.10(15)c Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans. A technical referral was made again to Child Care Resource and Referral on this matter due to this being a federal requirement. CCR&R provided the template for the EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN last year and offered guidance and assistance in completing the plan. I addressed this again with the Director during this visit. I made another technical referral to CCR&R on 4/7/20 so they may be able to provide assistance if necessary.

4. 109.9(2)g: Any child with allergies, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.

## V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The on site supervisor gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I encourage you to contact your local nurse consultant with IDPH. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. This summer the center did access CCNC Nancy Granaman (Des Moines County Child Care Nurse Consultant Iowa Department of Public Health). An Injury Prevention Checklist was completed on June 26th, with follow-up in July. A Recall notice for Inclined Sleepers was sent out to all providers on August 5: on August 19 the director had further contact with CCNC Granaman regarding this issue. On September 16 CCR&R referred the program to CCNC services regarding the use of inclined sleepers. I phoned CCNC Granaman on 11/4/19. She had not had recent contact with the center. I encouraged the Director again on 11/4/2019 to access this service regarding cleaning chemicals and swaddle sacks.

I encourage you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website to find out who your consultant is: [http://www.iowaccrr.org/who\\_we\\_are/region\\_5](http://www.iowaccrr.org/who_we_are/region_5)

\*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.