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

Name of Center: Eldora Children's Center Inc **Enrollment:** 60 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16190

Street: 1111 10th St **City:** Eldora Iowa **Zip** 50627 **County:** Hardin

Mailing Address: 1111 10th St, Eldora, IA, 50627

Director's Name: Kendra Kendall **Phone Number:** 641-939-3926

On-Site Supervisor(s): Zoe Tomlinson - AD, Terry Weatherly - OSS **E-Mail:** eccdirector@southhardin.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-06-2023

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: 02-23-2021

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	23	21	46	30	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2022 to 05-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-19-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Eldora Children's Center on 04-06-23 where I met with center director Kendra Kendall. Kendra took over the director position in 2018 and is well qualified for the position with prior experience as a director of another program. Zoe Tomlinson was appointed as the assistant director, and Terry Weatherly as on-site supervisor for when Kendra is not available. Both are also well qualified for the positions based on their prior experience, education, and on-going training. The program is located in a wing of the Eldora elementary school but maintains a separate entrance and connecting doors are kept closed. Although having a close cooperative relationship with the school the program is operated independently of the school under a separate board of directors as a non-profit entity. The center provides programming for infants through school age children. There are approximately 60 children currently enrolled in the program served by 9 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The program operates out of several classrooms that are determined by age groups. The design and layout of each room remains much the same as in prior visits. Each room has direct secondary egress to the outdoors. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely with the exception of the 2-3 year old classroom. While the door did open it required substantial force such that a child would not have been able to open the door and does need to be repaired. Each room has access to restroom and sink facilities in the rooms. The infant rooms are divided by a wall and a pass-through kitchenette area. The two and three year old classrooms are separated by a curtain divider, a shelving unit, and a mobile fence and gate system. The after school and summer program makes use of a classroom that is used by the school for special needs education during the day. The preschool, school age, and 3 year old rooms have small elevated loft areas. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns regarding maintenance noted. The preschool room has a small kitchen area in the room which is used for meal preparation for the center. The kitchen area was separated from the main classroom through the arrangement of counters, shelving, and a gate.

Each classroom is divided into activity centers through the use of furniture, shelves, and play structures. Each room has a good variety of centers that were well supplied with materials that were generally appropriate for the ages of the children present. Each room does have several large closets that are used to store additional games, puzzles, and art / craft supplies. A daily schedule is posted in each room, and a copy of the planned curriculum is posted at the main entrance. Each classroom follows the same general focus theme but develops specific activities for the classroom that is appropriate to the developmental level of the children. The general focus on the day of my visit was Weather with the older children having weekly focus on different types of weather, and the younger children having more general activities such as craft activities and stories related to weather concepts. Good interactions were observed with each teacher being actively engaged with the children or attending to their needs. Good behavior management techniques were used with the teachers providing guidance, redirection, and helping the children with problem solving.

Good health and safety practices are generally in place. I was able to observe diaper changes and the staff did follow the posted procedures. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers ensuring children washed their hands and did so in an effective manner by singing the ABC song while children washed. Teachers were also observant of issues such as removing mouthed toys, cleaning touched surfaces, and waiting for children to be out of the immediate area when using chemical cleaners. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and generally contain materials necessary to address

most common first aid needs. Purses, medications, chemical cleaners, and other items that could be a hazard to children were stored in a location where the children would not have access to them. Good safe sleep practices were followed on the day of my visit.

As noted the center has a kitchen area located in the preschool classroom. The refrigerator was observed to be clean and thermometers were present. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. I was able to observe lunch service and good food handling practices were observed. The children do eat in the classrooms and the teachers eat with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits. One issue that was noted was that the planned menu included grapes and raw carrots. Both are items that are considered to have a high incidence rate of choking and require modification either through cooking, or cutting. Both were served raw and while the grapes were cut in half in some rooms they were left whole in others. Similarly the carrots were not served to the infants but were left whole for the preschool age children. It was reviewed that these do need to be cut for children 4 years of age and younger. These should be cut so as to eliminate disk shapes such as quartering grapes, or cutting carrots into strips.

The center has two playground spaces with one for the infants and toddlers, and the other for the preschool and school age children. Both are fenced and the toddler area is contained within the larger preschool area. Both have multiple play surfaces with paved areas for riding equipment, some areas with plants, and soft surfaces. Foam rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath climbing equipment in the infant area, and a poured unitary foam surface in the preschool area. Both areas were observed to have a variety of toys and materials present which were appropriate to the ages of the children using the space and which were generally in good repair. There were some set screws that were loose such as on a gas station panel holder and while this did not create an immediate safety concern should still be tightened. Storage sheds are also used to store additional toys and materials.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. All required inspection logs and certificates for the fire marshal, carbon monoxide, playground, fuel burning appliances, radon, and emergency drills were current and available. The center did not log emergency drill practice for the month of March 2023, but it is also known that the center had participated in severe weather sheltering for warnings that had been issued for the community at large. It was reviewed that the center count actual emergency responses as part of the logged practice records. A random selection of 10% of child files were reviewed and compared to the self-audit completed by the center which was found to be accurate. The review and self-audit identified all files contained all required physicals and contact information. A request had also been made to review a file for a child with an identified allergy or health concern. Kendra did provide a file for a child with a diabetic response plan that was well developed and included updated information from a medical review visit the child had at the end of March. The center is currently using the ProCare Connect app to communicate with parents and this is where daily information for infants is logged. A review of 4 staff files was also completed and compared to the self-audit maintained by the center which was found to be accurate. The review identified 2 files in which a renewed physical was needed. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated as a Level 1 program out of a 5 level scale.

Kendra identified that she has a very stable group of core staff who have been with the center for 3 years or more. This longevity of employment does allow the staff to obtain training, and become familiar with the center expectations of care, and the children.

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

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
-- 1 emergency exit in the 2-3 year old classroom was extremely difficult to open and does need to be serviced, repaired, or replaced.

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.