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

Name of Center: Eldora Children's Center Inc **Enrollment:** 61 **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: 03-05-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 09-13-2023

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	23	21	46	30	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-13-2024

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 03-05-24 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 61 children currently enrolled in the program served by 10 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The classroom design, layout, and programming remains the same as in prior visits. The program is currently making use of 5 classrooms. 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 which required substantial force to open and needs to be repaired or replaced. 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 preschool, after school, and summer program makes use of another classroom. The preschool, school age, and 3 year old rooms have small elevated loft areas which do have fencing to enclose them. Each room was observed to be clean. 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 which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

Activity centers include options such as reading, large/small manipulatives, and art/crafts in each room, but also increase in options with the ages of the children to include dramatic play, group learning, math/science, experience tables, games/puzzles, and media. Each center was well supplied with materials that were generally appropriate for the ages of the children present but were also showing their age and nearing the end of their useful life. As examples soft side climbers and child furniture had worn covers where the foam core was beginning to show, a dramatic play refrigerator in the 2 year old room had missing hardware and a length of yarn had been tied for use as a handle. The staff should take inventory of their classrooms and provide a list of items that need to be replaced to allow the director and board time to plan for those expenditures. 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. 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. One issue that was noted is that the center is using a bleach water solution for disinfecting changing surfaces. In reviewing the product the spray bottles do need to be marked with the contents, to mix fresh daily, and should

include the dilution and dwell time information. With regard to dilution it was identified that the center was using a general "recipe" that provided guidelines for mixing a solution that would be intended for use as a sanitizing agent such as what would be required for food contact surfaces. The dilution would not be strong enough to be appropriate for disinfecting surfaces such as changing stations and a separate solution for that purpose should be prepared. Good cleaning practices were observed when using the solution with the teachers removing the children from the area before spraying surfaces. Good handwashing 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. 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. Ratio was maintained as required in each classroom.

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 with teachers wearing food service gloves, using measured scoops, and providing each child with nutritionally balanced options. The children do eat in the classrooms and the teachers eat with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

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/grass, 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 but again were nearing the end of their useful life. The climbing structure of the preschool/school age area was observed to be in good repair. 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. 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 contact information and authorizations, and 3 that needed an updated physical with the previous having just expired in the prior month. A review of 30% of the staff files was also completed and compared to the self-audit maintained by the center which agein was found to be accurate. The review identified that all required information was present and current. 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. The center is working to increase that rating to become a Level 2 rated program.

The center is currently looking at options to purchase and relocate to another building that would also be located on the school campus.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The emergency exit of the 2 year old classroom was damaged and required significant force to open and needs to be repaired. The water temperature of the 3 year old classroom was measured to be 128 deg. F. at the spigot and needs to be reduced or have mechanical scald preventers installed so that the temperature at the spigot is no more than 120 deg. F. The center needs to read and follow manufacturer label instructions for dilution ratios of the bleach product being used to ensure proper concentration levels for the intended purposes of sanitation, and disinfection. -- NOTE: The issue of the emergency exit damage preventing free and easy use in the 2 year old room was cited in the prior report 2ND YEAR CITED

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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: The issue of the improperly functioning emergency exit will be referred to the State Fire Marshal for review of applicable Fire Code requirements and enforcement.

*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.