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

Name of Center: Aurelia Day Care Inc **Enrollment:** 73 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29139

Street: 216 Ash ST **City:** Aurelia Iowa **Zip** 51005 **County:** Cherokee

Mailing Address: PO Box 745, Aurelia, IA, 51005

Director's Name: Elaine Smith **Phone Number:** 712-434-2521

On-Site Supervisor(s): Makenzie Nixon **E-Mail:** aureliadaycare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-30-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-03-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-05-2023

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	19	21	20	21	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 06-02-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I completed an unannounced licensing visit on 05/30/25 at the Aurelia Daycare Center. The program is in a free-standing building on the campus of the Aurelia Elementary School. The program provides daycare and preschool programming to infants through school age children. The preschool/school agers use a room within the elementary school building. The main building of the center has 3 classrooms defined by age (infant, toddler, and two/three-year-old room I was able to speak with director Elaine Smith. Elaine has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary School education. This is her 4th year working at this program.

The center makes meals onsite. There are 73 children enrolled in the program. At the time of my visit there were 45 children present.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center has cameras throughout the facility.
As I went from room to room a observed a lot of visual aids including the alphabet, colors, counting, calendar and weather information. There are also multiple examples of the children's artwork displayed. There are pictures of children, and their family hung on a family tree. They utilize a creative curriculum, and schedules of lessons and activities are posted throughout the center.

Menus are also posted, and they do follow CCAFP guidelines although they do not participate with the program. Meals are made on site. The nurse was just present, checking the files and all children's immunizations are up to date. This worker looked at these files and they all had the necessary forms updated.

The program uses the playground application] Monthly fire and Tornado drills are documented along with playground inspections. The playground has been updated and has new climbing structures, riding area, music toys, new fence, and sandbox. Surfacing is poured rubber. They have purchased and are waiting for their shade structure to be put in.

The program is all electric. The site has a radon mitigation system.

Staff use the playground application to communicate with parents. The infant room puts information about feeding, changing and naps both in the app and documented in the room.

The daycare has a positive atmosphere and staff to child ratio was more than adequate.

Goals of the center include working on their IQ4K certification.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Strengths of the center include staff that adjusted to the transition of a new director.

The director took the Lead Pilot program to increase her knowledge.

The board works positively with this center and has been very helpful.

Staff appear committed to the children in their care.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

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.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.

Additional concerns: opened food need to be in a Ziploc bag or container and dated.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is also recommended for the center to continue working with CCRR to get on the IQ4K program, and files.

Director needs to email consultant by 07-01-25 confirming that all items that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.