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: 09/29/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/16/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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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. The on-site supervisors are Emily Sward, Tracy Frush and Angie Thomas. Eighty-two children are enrolled. I met with Mandy Sanders and Angie Thomas during my licensing visit on 9/29/28.

Observation of rooms:
An unannounced licensing visit was made to Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center on 9/29/25. There are eight program rooms which consist of three infant rooms, one room for 24-29 months, two rooms for 30-36 months, 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 Curriculum. There is a small motor skill room for younger children and a large motor skill room for older children. The motor skill rooms have many fun features i.e. 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. The children were having fun participating in a variety of activities. The daily sheets looked good. High Scope Curriculum is used and Teaching Strategies Gold lesson plans/activities are used. 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. Family engagement is provided three times a year with building wide programs. 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 is on the national school lunch program and they follow the CACFP food program guidelines. Make sure all refrigerators/freezers have thermometers. Menus were posted. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and safety:
Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. Monthly fire and tornado drills were completed. The center uses Purell Surface for sanitizing and disinfecting. The three step bottles are 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. (make sure rooms have separate bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting) Radon testing was

completed in 2023 and was in the acceptable range. This should be monitored under the Iowa Department of Education. The building has all electrical appliances. Maintenance issues are taken care of by the school maintenance staff. The center has the required emergency policies and procedures. Toys are sanitized daily. Sheets for the cots and cribs are washed weekly. Every room has a first aid kit. Diapering procedures are posted at the diaper changing stations.

Playground:
The center has a wonderful, fenced playground, with rubber fall surfacing. There is an infant/toddler area and an area for preschool age children. There are many fun features such as a climber piece of equipment, swings, a large piece of equipment with slides, trikes/helmets, etc. Monthly playground safety inspections are done.

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

Administrative records:
Nine children's files were read and were mostly in good order. Two children did not have their annual physical exams. All children under school age are required to have an annual physical exam. Six staff files were read and four were missing state background record checks and five were missing the national background checks. There was a misunderstanding about how frequently each is required. The state background checks are due every two years and the national background checks are due every four years. Please go through all files and complete the necessary background checks. 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 believes their strengths are they have a good team and are able to provide adequate personal development. There is a lot of support for staff including a behavior consultant and curriculum specialist. They also have two early childhood consultants through AEA. The center is IQ4K Level 3. The center applies for grants. The Brightwheel App is used for communication and reporting.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)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. Iowa record checks have not been completed every two years.

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. National record checks have not been completed every four years.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for Anne E. Nelson Early Learning Center for 8/1/25 to 8/1/27.

Please complete both state and federal background checks immediately.

Date: 10/06/2025

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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**.