Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Valley Preschool & Childcare

Provider No.: 18217

Address: 23493 Canoe Rd, Elgin, IA, 52141

County: Fayette

Director's Name: Kali Wenger

On-Site Supervisor: Kristina Lane

Phone Number: 5634129801

E-Mail: valleychildcaredirector@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/16/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/23/2023

Comments: Compliance on 11/20/23

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	14	19	32	10	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 09/16/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Valley Preschool & Childcare in Elgin. I met with Kali Wenger, the director. She has been with the program since 2011. Ms. Wenger is the lead teacher in the four-year-old preschool class. Ms. Wenger has a BA in early childhood education and a reading and English endorsement. I also met with Kristina Lane, the on-site supervisor. She has been employed with the center since September 2020 and became the on-site supervisor in July 2024. Darcy Struve is the lead teacher for the three-year-old preschool class. Ms. Struve has been with the program since August 2010 and has her paraeducator certificate. Shirley Durnan is the assistant in Ms. Wenger's class. Ms. Durnan has been with the program since January 2012 and has her paraeducator certificate. Audra Duehring is the assistant in Ms. Struve's room and has her paraeducator certificate. The program employs a total of eighteen staff members.

Valley Preschool is in the North Fayette Valley Community Schools Early Childhood Learning Center. They added a childcare program that opened on 10/19/20. The childcare program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. They care for infants through preschool children all year round and they typically care for school-age children during the summer. The four-year-old preschool programs operate Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. They have the option of attending Monday through Friday or Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. The three-year-old children attend Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45 am until 3:45 pm. Every Wednesday they have an early out and the program operates from 7:45 am until 2:00 pm. The program partners with the Valley Community School District to provide the state-wide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. There are currently 50 children enrolled between the preschool and childcare programs.

The program operates out of two preschool classrooms and two childcare rooms. An inspection of each room was

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completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, listening, Ipads, woodworking, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

In the infant room there is one handwashing sink and three sinks for dishes and food prep. There are two changing tables. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. The toddler room has a bathroom with two toilets and there are two sinks in the room. They have one diaper changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. Post the diaper changing procedures closer to the changing table. The three-year-old preschool room has a bathroom with one toilet and one sink and there is one sink in the classroom. Handwashing procedures were posted. The four-year-old preschool classroom has a bathroom with one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted. There is a sink in the four-year-old classroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

There are bathrooms on the way to the cafeteria. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, one urinal and two sinks and the girl's bathroom has two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted.

There are bathrooms near the entrance. The boy's bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and three sinks and the girl's bathroom has five toilets and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

Mats are used to nap in the rooms for the children two and older. Cribs are used in the infant room. Mats were stored correctly. Bedding is washed weekly.

There is a phone in each room and emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number are posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram near the program door that goes to the hallway in the infant room and post the emergency diagram near the exit to the bathroom in the four-year-old preschool room. In the toddler room move the evacuation diagram closer to the door that goes to the hallway. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The four-year-old preschool program utilizes the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Second Step, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Jolly Phonics and Handwriting Without Tears are also used. The three-year-old program uses the Creative Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears and a variety of other resources. Activities are planned around studies. The length of the study depends on the topic and the children's interest level. In the four-year-old class, Ms. Wenger completes the Creative Curriculum GOLD assessment tool on each child. The Iowa Early Learning Standards are used to guide the expectations for children and instructional practices. Valley Preschool follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). The program has implemented the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classrooms. Lesson plans were available for review in the preschool rooms.

A variety of resources are used to complete lesson plans in the childcare rooms. The toddler room has an activity calendar but needs to complete a lesson plan with more activities to show me they have a plan for the day. This was cited in the last two years' reports as well. The toddler room must begin developing a lesson plan that shows a plan for each day. The lead teacher in the toddler room talked to me about her plan for the day and what she typically does. I informed her she has a good plan but she must put it down on paper. She informed Ms. Wenger was going to help her with lesson planning.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The program is not doing the drills every month. Some months they only discuss how to do the drills. You must always do complete drills, even during the winter months.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

The radon test was completed in September 2025 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines.

The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted.

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The school uses well water and receives an annual water analysis and no concerns were noted.

A carbon monoxide detector was present in the kitchenette in the toddler room. The carbon monoxide detector was chirping. Ms. Lane states she has tried to change the batteries and it did not work. She is going to purchase a new one.

The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/23/23, with compliance on 11/20/23.

North Fayette Valley School is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but the licensed program is not. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by school cafeteria staff and preschool parents can purchase breakfast and lunch through the school for a fee. Lunch is included in the childcare fees and parents can purchase breakfast if they would like. Parents can bring breakfast for the children if they arrive before 7:30 am. The children three-years-old and younger eat all meals and snacks in their rooms. Family style is not used. The four-year-old preschool class eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria and go through the line cafeteria style. Snacks are eaten in their classroom.

The parents provide the morning and afternoon snacks for the three-year-old preschool classroom. The four-year-old preschool class receives their snacks from the school. Menu and snack calendars were posted in the preschool classrooms. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the preschool rooms.

The childcare rooms provide a morning and afternoon snack from the center. The childcare program asks for donations for snacks or parents can pay a snack fee. Snack calendars are maintained in the infant room. In the toddler room staff members are sporadic about documenting what is served for snacks. Snacks must be documented every day. Accurate and detailed snack menus must be maintained for the morning and afternoon snack. This was cited in last year's report also. There is a small kitchenette area off the toddler room where snacks are kept. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There are three sinks and a dishwasher in this area.

Each room has a refrigerator. Thermometers were present in each of the rooms except for in the toddler room. You must put thermometers in the freezer portion in the kitchenette off the toddler room.

During the summer months the childcare staff take turns preparing lunch for the program.

The parents provide formula, baby food and cereal for the infants. Children who eat table food are fed through the center. Bottles are washed using the three-step method in the room during the day and some are sent to the kitchenette at the end of the day to be put through the dishwasher.

Daily sheets are maintained through the ProCare app in the infant room. You must document the child's mood daily.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I discussed diaper changing processes with the infant and toddler room staff members. In the infant room the staff member said there are times when she leaves the gloves on throughout the changing process. This cannot occur. Gloves are considered soiled and must always be removed prior to putting on the new diaper.

There is a playground with two fenced in areas. The area for the preschool children has rubber tiles for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides, music, climbing walls, a tunnel and other activities. There is a sandbox with a shade structure over it. A shed is in the area that stores additional activities. There are some tires for the children to crawl on that sit on rubber mulch. There is a natural hill in the area. Trees are used for shade. There is a storage bin in this area that needs repaired.

The area for the younger children has all grass. There is a playhouse, riding toys, basketball hoop and a dramatic play center. There is a natural hill in this area for the children to play on. Trees are used for shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the childcare entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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In the two preschool rooms the children were engaged in free play. In the four year old preschool room Ms. Wenger was working one on one with children to identify letters while Ms. Durnan was walking around the classroom engaging with the children while they played. She encouraged the children to use their imaginations. In the three year old preschool room Ms. Struve was working one on one with children while they journaled and Ms. Duehring was assisting the children with a craft. Fifth grade visitors then came to the classroom to help with the craft and play with the children. The toddler children were outside enjoying the nice weather. When they returned to the room, they washed their hands and sat down to eat lunch. They watched a child friendly video while waiting for lunch to be served. In the infant room the staff members were on the floor with the children. They had children on their laps and introduced them to activities. All the staff members had great teamwork. They provided the children with praise and created a positive environment for the children.

The four-year-old preschool class, the three-year-old preschool class and the childcare each have a separate private Facebook page for parents.

Ms. Lane states she and the childcare staff members completed PBIS training.

The parents have the option to pay their bills via Venmo.

The program is in a secure building.

The preschool rooms offer child and parent teacher conferences in the fall and spring.

Fifth grade visitors go into the three year old preschool classroom to interact with the children.

The program partners with the Valley Community School District to provide the state-wide voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

The full day preschool students who are four years old can ride the school bus to and from school.

The program can use the school nurse when children are sick or injured.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(13)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.
Post the evacuation diagram near the program door that goes to the hallway in the infant room and post the emergency diagram near the exit to the bathroom in the four-year-old preschool room. In the toddler room move the evacuation diagram closer to the door that goes to the hallway.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The toddler room has an activity calendar but needs to complete a lesson plan with more activities to show me they have a plan for the day. This was cited in the last two years' reports as well. The toddler room must begin developing a lesson plan that shows a plan for each day. The lead teacher in the toddler room talked to me about her plan for the day and what she typically does. I informed her she has a good plan but she must put it down on paper. She informed Ms. Wenger was going to help her with lesson planning.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
In the infant room the staff member said there are times when she leaves the gloves on throughout the changing process. This cannot occur. Gloves are considered soiled and must always be removed prior to putting on the new diaper.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less

than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

In the toddler room staff members are sporadic about documenting what is served for snacks. Snacks must be documented every day. Accurate and detailed snack menus must be maintained for the morning and afternoon snack. This was cited in last year's report also.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I met with Ms. Lane following my observations in the classrooms. We discussed the items that need to be corrected. Ms. Lane was open to the conversation and agreed to make corrections.

Date: 09/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.