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

Name of Center: Children's Choice Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 142 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 35651

Street: 115 S 3rd AVE **City:** Eldridge Iowa **Zip** 52748 **County:** Scott

Mailing Address: 115 S 3rd AVE, Eldridge, IA, 52748

Director's Name: Shari Eller;Courtney Anderson/Mitchel Dierickx **Phone Number:** 563-285-6500

On-Site Supervisor(s): Linnae Wingate **E-Mail:** Office@childrenschoice-eldridge.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-29-2024

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: 05-16-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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	54	42	67	39	202
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 07-15-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 5/29/24. The large center is for profit and is owned by Shari Eller and Eller Foundations. Shari is also the qualified center director. Shari was present on the day of the visit along with other staff. Courtney Anderson is also qualified as center director. Courtney accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the majority of the visit. The center participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program.

The center consists of the following program rooms: Sprout Court (18 months through 23 months); Bloomer Crossing (12 months to 18 months); Baby Boulevard (approximately six to 12 months); Lullaby Lane (six weeks to six months); High End Road (four/five years); Locomotion Highway (three/four years - and open on one end to High End Road); Snoopy Avenue (four/five years old and Voluntary prek room); Huggable Hills (younger twos); Adventure Place (older twos/younger threes - and open on one end to Huggable Hills); and Runaround Circle (school-age and also large motor room for all programs when school age children are not present).

Program rooms generally included an adequate supply of materials and age appropriate equipment to support programming needs. The youngest infant rooms are nicely arranged with readily accessible materials for the children.

Some rooms include adjacent restroom facilities with the exception of the infant and toddler rooms which do include diapering stations. High End Road room and Snoopy Avenue room have to travel over to the Locomotion Highway room to use the restroom area. Adventure Place must travel over to Huggable Hills to use the restroom area. Adventure Place and Huggable Hills rooms and their restroom area do not include any diapering stations. When needed the standing method is used for diaper changing in the restroom area. Most rooms contain or have access to additional sink(s) within the program space as well.

The center continues to mostly use mats for nap. Storage and sanitation of the mats and bedding items is always reviewed with the center. The center indicates that mat sheets are washed daily, and the mats are sanitized daily. Blankets are also washed daily in some of the rooms. As before mentioned, the center is encouraged to replace mats with stackable cots as soon as it is possible because they provide for easier sanitation, bedding may not have to be washed daily if stored correctly, and cots get children up off the floor. It is noted that the center has replaced some mats with cots.

All program space was observed.

The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. All meals/snacks are prepared on-site in the center's kitchen. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The kitchen area continues to be highly organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center owner/director has experience and training in the child care field and has assisted with operating this center since it opened. She also has extensive business administration experience. The center employs two additionally qualified center directors as well as an on site supervisor. The program rooms are bright with windows and offer an ample amount of space.

Many craft and project items from the children are on display throughout the center. The staff were again observed to be engaged with the children in activities. The center also has a video monitoring system that allows program rooms to be monitored from the director's office. Licensing documentation and child and staff files were found to be organized.

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

STAFF FILES:
109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed did not have evidence that the record checks were completed in full as required. Center administration reports this has been completed subsequent this visit.

109.10(3): Medications.
1. Medication present without pharmacy label.
2. Medication administration record missing documentation as to whether or not the medication was given.

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.
1. Tornado drill not documented for 12/2023.

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.
1. Current activity plans not posted for several program rooms.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. Consultant/handbook availability posting is needed at the entrance of the center with the other required postings.
2. Ensure child files include parent permission to release children to the school bus and that this permission is included in the required annual update.
3. Ensure center vehicle maintenance records are kept in the licensing binder for review.
4. Ensure gloves, tissues, etc. are not set/kept out on or next to the diaper stations.
5. Emergency plan posting missing at door to outside in Runaround Circle room.
6. Hand washing poster is needed at sink in Adventure Place.
7. Bloomer Crossing refrigerator observed at 46F. Freezer observed at 10F. Freezers shall maintain temperature of 0F or below. Refrigerators shall maintain temperature of 40F or below.
8. Ensure space within 18 inches of any hand washing sink is not used for any food service activity and that any surface used for food service activity is cleared of all clutter and then cleaned and sanitized immediately prior to that activity.

The center will continue with a full license. The center is directed to correct the items cited and the items noted above in this section of the report and to submit a written summary to the licensing consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. The written summary shall be submitted within 30 days of receipt of this evaluation. Thank you.

*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.