Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Children's Choice Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 35651

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

County: Scott

Director's Name: Megan Burns

On-Site Supervisor: Linnae Wingate

Phone Number: 5632856500

E-Mail: Office@childrenschoice-eldridge.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/24/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/16/2024

Comments:

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	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 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	54	42	67	39	202
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 5/8/25. The large center is for profit and is owned by Shari Eller and Eller Foundations, Megan Burns, and Courtney Anderson. Since April 2025, Megan Burns is the approved center director and was present and accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the majority of the visit. Megan has worked at the center for several years prior to becoming the primary director and is qualified with an associate's degree in general studies, she is in the process of obtaining a CDA, and she has been involved in managing the center since 2024. Courtney Anderson is a co-director. Courtney has a bachelor's degree in special education. The center participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center director states the preschool program uses the Teaching Strategies Gold Curriculum, and staff write monthly and weekly theme based activity plans which are then reviewed for content by Courtney Anderson.

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. All program space was observed.

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 continued to replace some mats with cots.

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.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center owner, though stepping down as primary director for the center, 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 qualified director appears highly motivated, has worked at the center for several years, and prior to becoming director has been a part of the management team for the center. 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 staff appear to work well together. 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 again found to be highly organized. The center has installed new turf surfacing in the outdoor play area. Fencing has also been installed to fully secure the large grassy area next to the building that is used for outdoor play.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.
1. Standing diaper change procedures were reviewed. Each diaper change is a separate change and requires staff to wash hands before moving to the next child. Gloves shall be removed before putting on the clean diaper just as with a regular diaper change.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with (director) their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The center director provided the following responses:
1. Our expectation is that our behavior management comes from a place of positive guidance and appropriate responses to challenging behaviors. We provide clear guidelines on phrases and strategies teachers can use in their classroom. Teachers are encouraged to discuss challenges with leadership, and are given opportunities to problem solve, and observe behaviors being addressed. Directors provide feedback in real time whenever possible, so all staff can learn from authentic experiences rather than read about hypothetical situations.
2. Staff are encouraged to be self-aware in their day-to-day activities, and to be vocal with their own concerns and frustrations to supervisors. Staff are modeling de-escalation strategies to children in the classroom, and these can be learning moments for staff as well. Asking a director to step into a classroom, having conversations with co teachers and other staff members, or even walking away from a situation within the classroom can all promote a teacher’s de-escalation from being frustrated with a behavior. When staff members are able to demonstrate to students their own de-escalation strategies,

students are more likely to recognize these when they need them themselves. Our directors are both actively in classrooms, which provides opportunities for real time coaching and support in these moments of frustration.
3. Our leadership staff are constantly in communication with one another along with monitoring staff skills and responses to behavior management situations. These conversations allow for more timely and authentic coaching opportunities to happen. Communication from leadership to staff happens frequently, whether through conversations or documented observations.

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. A safe and developmentally appropriate stool is recommended to assist the children in reaching the hand washing sink in the huggable hills room so that they may utilize this sink.
2. Improve storage of food service items in the sprout court and bloomer crossing rooms. These items shall be maintained entirely separately from other miscellaneous items.
3. Improve crib spacing in areas of lullaby lane room. This was reviewed with the director and staff at the visit.
4. Improved diaper station is recommended for the second station in the bloomer crossing room. The diaper station surface shall be constructed of a non porous and durable material to be properly cleaned and disinfected.

The center will continue with a full license. Please address the violation(s) and/or concern(s) noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 06/02/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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**.