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

Name of Center: Busy Bee Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 41 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50440

Street: 2650 10th St **City:** Marion Iowa **Zip** 52302 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO BOX 201, Marion, IA, 52302

Director's Name: Jennifer Johnson (co-owner and director) **Phone Number:** 319-447-1061

On-Site Supervisor(s): Laura Edaburn (co-owner and director) **E-Mail:** elcbusybee@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-03-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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 **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 11-02-2023

Comments : Items were noted. On 12/22/2023, management reported the items have been or are in the process of being remedied.

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 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	14	6	24	5	49
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 10-31-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 12-05-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Busy Bee Early Learning Center - DBA (JLJA INC) commenced operations on 1/2/2019. The center was purchased from the previous owner by two employees who had been employed at that program for over 20 years. Busy Bee ELC operates year-round Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 6:00pm. The program serves primarily children age infant though preschool-age. Current enrollment is 38.

Co-owners and co-directors of Busy Bee ELC are Jennifer Johnson and Laura Edaburn. Ms. Johnson has a CDA in early childhood education, has over 20 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. Ms. Edaburn has a BA degree in early childhood education, has over 20 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisors are Taylor Williams and Mackenzie Croxell. Each on-site supervisor has at least 5 years of experience working with children and continue to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/3/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Busy Bee ELC offers a variety of early learning programming and childcare to help meet the needs of children and families in the community. Busy Bee ELC is located in a predominantly urban area and accepts a variety of funding sources.

Busy Bee ELC has established a private social media page.

The mission of Busy Bee ELC is to provide a "...safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for ages 6 weeks to 5 years..."

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Edaburn are local entrepreneurs invested in children and the community. The owners will be celebrating their 4th year of business in 2024. Congratulations! Co-owners and co-directors are educated and experienced. The management team is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Both are knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Since the last review, Busy Bee has retained many seasoned staff as well as hired a few new ones. Staff reported celebrating 17 years, 11 years, 8 years, and 1 years employment with this program. Management talked about having an "awesome core team of seasoned staff" describing them as hard-working, positive, and reliable. One staff reported "I love my job so I'm sticking around". Staff team building experiences, appreciation activities, and recognition events continue to be part of the program's successful operations.

Busy Bee ELC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This program successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County Flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019

pandemic, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2023 air quality compromises.

Busy Bee ELC continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Since the last review, a new furnace and air conditioner was installed. Classrooms continued to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed in clever ways (e.g. Wall of Art, Cutest Pumpkin in the Patch, Jack-O-Lantern faces, Q-Tip skeletons, Trick-or-Treat Smell my Feet and Happy Dino-Ween milestone art) throughout the center. Curriculum is theme-based encompassing learn through play, teacher-inspired ideas, social skills, and kindergarten readiness. Busy Bee ELC also offers guest speaker events, program-family conferences, fundraising opportunities, and seasonal/holiday celebrations.

Busy Bee ELC collaborates well with community agencies including local businesses, various school districts, CCR&R and health professionals.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Busy Bee ELC has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included harvest machines, farming, farm animals, cooking and Thanksgiving. Infant cares were observed. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encouraged innovative play and learning. Classroom activities included book reading, circle discussion (e.g. included phonics work in 2yo room), small group work, large group activity (e.g. Very clever highly enjoyed "Little Bat Where Are You?" game that included color recognition work!) and center play experiences (e.g. paper punching, block building, crafting). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices throughout their day. Routine transitions (e.g. food rituals, clean-up) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.