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

Name of Center: Early Explorers **Enrollment:** 79 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24240

Street: 603 Greenwood Dr **City:** Iowa City Iowa **Zip** 52246 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address: 603 Greenwood Dr, Iowa City, IA, 52246

Director's Name: Gina Woolsey **Phone Number:** 319-338-0763

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cassi Elton **E-Mail:** director@gsckids.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-06-2025

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-04-2021

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 04-29-2023

Comments : Does Comply

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

Financial Type: Profit X 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	46	46	46		138
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 01-06-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Administrative Change: The center changed its name from Good Shepherd Center to Early Explorers.

This worker arrived at Good Shepherd Center for an annual visit on 4/4/24. The center provides child care for infant-preschool aged children. They currently have 79 children enrolled. The center is open from 6:30am-6:00pm.

The director is Gina Woolsey. Gina started in 6/2022. She has a bachelor's degree in Sociology.

The assistant director/onsite supervisor Cassi Elton. Cassi started in 10/2022. Cassi has a Bachelor's in English and a master's in library and information science.

The center has seven classrooms, dining/recreation area, offices, kitchen, and storage. The fire inspection was completed on 4/29/2023.

All program space was observed on the date of my visit.

Nutritional practices were checked. The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center followed handwashing procedures. The center stored medications appropriately. The center has a full stocked first aid kit. The center had completed radon testing as required. The center had completed an annual fuel burning appliance inspection and had a carbon monoxide detector.

The center's curriculum is teacher created.

This worker reviewed the center's policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-Barb started in 1985. Shelly started in 2002. Brittany and Courtney started in 2007. Sandy started in 2013. Dena started in 2014. Victoria started in 2020. Allison, Raylin, Gloria, Joanna Eli started in 2021.
-The center is encouraging staff to complete their Child Development Associates through TEACH and WAGES.
-Visitors come to the center: Iowa City Public Library, UI Dental College Dental Health, UI Audiology Preschool Speech/Hearing Screening, Lions Club and UIHC vision screening, Briarwood, Bike Safety Presentation, Green Iowa, Americorp Preschool, Fire Department, etc.
-The center offers activities for families including Preschool Graduation, Art Show, Family Meeting, Holiday Decorating, Cocoa and Carol's, etc.
-The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
-The center accepts Child Care Assistance.

-The center regularly works with Child Care Resource and Referral and the Child Care Nurse Consultant.
-The center is utilizing Brightwheel for open communication.

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

N/A Administrative Change

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The following agencies are available to provide consultation, support, and educational opportunities:
CACFP: https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program
Child Care Resource and Referral: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
Early Childhood Iowa: https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
First Children's Finance: https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/
Healthy Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants
Iowa AEYC: http://www.iowaaeyc.org/
Iowa After School Alliance: https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/
Iowa State University: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/early-childhood
4c's of Johnson County: https://www.iowa4cs.com/

*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.