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

Name of Center: Mary Elizabeth Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30099

Street: 814 Court St **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51105 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 814 Court St, Sioux City, IA, 51105

Director's Name: Jane Heider **Phone Number:** 712-258-1605

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heidi Kramer **E-Mail:** meccp814@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-22-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-24-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-20-2024

Comments :

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: 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			41	43	84
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 08-25-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I completed an unannounced licensing visit at this center on 08/22/25. I was able to speak with Jane Heier, Director. MS Heider has a 4-year degree, is a Para educator and has 47 years of experience in childcare. I was also able to visit with onsite supervisor Heidi Kramer. Ms. Kramer has been working at Mary Elizabeth since 2022. She also has numerous training hours including PBIS, ITERS and ECERS.

Mary Elizabeth Daycare was the first daycare center built in the area and has been in operation since 1914. It is designated as a historical landmark. The physical facility appears to be well maintained. The center has 5 rooms - a dining area/school age, preschool room on the second floor, 2-year-olds, large motor room and a room for three-year-olds. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:00am to 5:45pm. The center serves children ages 2 years to school age. There are 36 children enrolled in the program, at the time of my visit there were 33 children there.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The center has been struggling with obtaining staffing and enrollment. This year they are teaming up with a center and sharing a teacher. I also like the collaboration of these 2 centers as they both worth increase enrollment. They are using each other as support to bring creative ideas to their programs.

The center provides designated areas throughout the classrooms for children to explore and learn, including spaces for toys, books, Legos, and dramatic play/house activities. Each room is equipped with enough toys and learning materials appropriate for the age group. Children have access to bathrooms and sink within the center. A daily schedule of activities was observed to be posted in each classroom. Child-sized furniture is available throughout the rooms to support comfort and independence.

I observed a classroom activity where the children were actively engaged in developing a variety of skills. The teachers guided the children through math and matching activities to support cognitive growth, encouraged scissor use to strengthen fine motor development, and provided opportunities for creating artwork to foster creativity and self-expression. This activity reflected intentional teaching practices that supported multiple areas of development. The center incorporates STEM activities that encourage children to explore science, technology, engineering, and math through hands-on experiments, building projects, and problem-solving play.

I also observed staff actively engaging with the children through activities such as dancing and following directions. Staff involvement was excellent, fostering positive relationships and supporting the children's social-emotional development while promoting both learning and enjoyment.

The center participates in the food program. Lunches are purchased from the Sioux City Community School, while

breakfast and snacks are prepared on site. During the summer months. They have just completed their CCAFP audit.

The playground has much for surfacing around the equipment. There are several climbing structure and activities for the children to do. I would recommend a repaint of outside benches and other equipment by next year. The center does not offer transport. The program will walk over to the Irving School and HeadStart to bring children to school. They usually utilize the bussing system to go to parks and the YMCA to swim when staffing permits.

The kitchen was clean and used good food storage along. The kitchen is clean, and appropriate handwashing was observed by both staff and children.
First Aid Kits are adequate to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills have been completed monthly.

Goals for next year are to increase their IQ4K level.

They would like to increase enrollment

On their wish list is central air conditioning

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

These staff members are very dedicated to this program. It is a historical building which at times makes remodeling or other updates very difficult. Despite this, they have a creating a very positive learning environment.

They have reached level 3 in IQ4K.

All of their staff is working on completed the PBIS training which focusing on positive behaviors.

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

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please provide consultant with an email confirming that those items that fall blow standards have been completed by 10/01/25.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.