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

Name of Center: Elim Children's Center **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16552

Street: 302 W Church ST **City:** Marshalltown Iowa **Zip** 50158 **County:** Marshall

Mailing Address: 302 W Church ST, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Kathy McCune **Phone Number:** 641-752-8760

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brooke Seymour /Tessa Rundall **E-Mail:** director@elimchildrenscenter.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-23-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-03-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 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	37	12	24	36	109
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-23-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full-licensing visit was completed 10-23-23. Director (Interim) Kathy McCune was present through the majority of the visit; Brooke Seymour, on-site supervisor was present during the first part of the visit.

Elim Children's Center has been in existence for almost 30 years and is attached to Elim Church. The center has a board of directors and is a ministry of the church. The center serves newborns up to school age children; Monday through Friday 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Current enrollment is 60; with a waiting list for infant care. Kathy McCune has been the Interim director since November of 2020. Kathy has a Master's degree in speech and language pathology and is a licensed teacher in the state of Iowa. Kathy worked with AEA for 30 years and taught preschool, Head Start and toddler classrooms. Kathy is on the Board for this center as well. Kathy meets qualifications to be the interim director. Brooke Seymour is an assistant director/on-site supervisor. Brooke has been with Elim's Children's Center for over 10 years and meets qualifications to be an on-site supervisor. Tessa Rundall has been added as an on-site supervisor as of September of 2022. Tessa has worked at this center for twelve years. Lisa Rushton assists as well with closing and other administrative duties.

All areas of the program were observed on 10/23/23. 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.

Room Observations: The center has nine enclosed classrooms and an open space area on the 3rd floor that can be used for large motor play when the weather does not allow the children to go outside. The center now has a curriculum coordinator who is devising curriculum with aspects of creative curriculum still used. There is currently a fall theme with apples; doing an "apple hunt". The center continues to use the Remind/Pro Care Application to communicate with parents. Lesson plans are posted. Rooms are in ratio today. The children were eating lunch and transitioning to a resting period. The school-age children were at school and not present. The center has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities/toys. The staff had maintained good structure in the room and were consistently responsive to and engaged with the children in the room. There is ready access to restroom facilities that were clean and stocked with necessary toiletries. The center utilizes soapy water and oxivir for cleaning/sanitation. The rooms were observed to have a good supply of cleaning products available in each room.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen for this center that shares kitchen space with the church. The center participates in the CACFP food program and menus are reflective of that program requirements. The menus were posted and are in a four week rotation. Dry food storage and refrigeration was clean and organized. The appliances used to prepare food were clean. Lunch is prepared in the kitchen and served family-style in the classrooms by staff. The kitchen was very tidy.

Health and Safety: When medication is needed by a child; medication is stored securely in the director's office. Several staff are certified in medication administration. Medications that need refrigerated are stored in a lock box in a refrigerator. Handwashing signs were posted through out and staff was observed to model good handwashing techniques. The center has

readily accessible/fully stocked first aid kits. Tornado/Fire plans are posted and monthly checks were documented to have been completed. Radon testing was completed on 9/2/23 in classrooms; all tested below 4.0 cutoff; due again 2028. HVAC was inspected 4/27/23; and is arranged/paid by the church as the center's building is part of the church. The center has carbon monoxide detectors in the hallways adjacent to the classrooms.

Playground: The outdoor playground is enclosed with chain-link fencing and has two large new shades providing cover. Surfacing is pressed wood chips. Play structures were observed to be in good condition. Any protruding bolts from the fencing were either turned outward or capped to prevent direct contact.

Transportation/Field Trips: The center took a field trip recently to the apple orchard that went along with monthly lesson themes. The center contracts with the local school to provide a school bus and school bus driver for transport.

Administrative Review: The center has the required information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado exit plans and posted non-smoking signs. Four child files were reviewed; one file was in need of an updated physical, which the director indicated had been completed but the parent had not provided as there is a bit of a language barrier. Four Employee files were reviewed and all necessary information was found, with the exception of one updated CPR/1st Aid certification, which the employee had completed the previous month and needed to provide a copy for the file; the director will provide a copy of such. This center has well-establish policies and student handbooks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center is working in the IQ4k quality rating system.

The staff work well together and there are long term staff continuing to work at the center, which provides stability and consistency to the program.

The interactions between staff and children continues to be positive and nurturing.

The center partners well with outside agencies, such as AEA, CCR&R, and the local school district.

The center interacts well with church members and sets up opportunities for the children to interact with church members, such as game day with seniors, Thanksgiving feast/carnival and the Christmas program.

Both the church and the Board of Directors is a strong support for the center.

Every Wednesday the children engage in Bible stories and singing with the Pastor of the church. The Pastor continues to be involved and participating with center activities.

The center has a secure entrance and has installed new doors/new security system.

The interim director is organized and brings years of experience and leadership to the program. The interim director is dedicated to the program.

Staff received pay raises this year.

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

There were not aspects of operation that fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is on the food program and their menus reflect they are following the CACFP guidelines.

This center has very organized files/programming.

Staff work well to maintain structure in the center and administratively.

*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.