Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kidleidoscope Early Primary Explorers Academy

Provider No.: 53059

Address: 2302 West St, Sioux City, IA, 51103

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Shanell Zelmer

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122212103

E-Mail: kidscope.admin@icloud.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/19/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/05/2025

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	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		

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	10	10	10	8	38
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was conducted on 10/19/26, during which I met with Shannon Zellner, Program Director. Ms. Zellner brings extensive experience in the child care field and previously operated a Registered Child Development Home B before transitioning to center-based care. She continues to participate in numerous professional development and training opportunities, demonstrating her commitment to maintaining the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality care for children.

The center is located in the former Angel House Daycare and Preschool facility. Currently, Ms. Zellner utilizes two classrooms to provide child care services for children ranging in age from infancy through school age. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At the time of the visit, the center had 21 children enrolled, with 13 children in attendance.

All components of the program were reviewed during the visit, including classroom environments and activities, nutrition services, health and safety practices, playground usage, transportation and field trip procedures, and administrative records.

The classrooms were well-equipped with an adequate supply of toys, cribs, and age-appropriate materials to support children's developmental needs. Learning spaces were bright, welcoming, and enhanced by natural lighting. Educational displays featuring numbers, shapes, letters of the alphabet, and children's artwork were visible throughout the classrooms, creating an engaging and developmentally appropriate environment.

The program utilizes a theme-based curriculum that supports learning across multiple developmental domains. This approach helps children connect classroom experiences to the world around them while building language skills through

exposure to new vocabulary related to each theme. The curriculum also promotes social interaction and cooperative learning as children engage in activities together. Theme-based planning allows staff to provide intentional experiences that support cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development while maintaining children's interest and enthusiasm for learning.

Meals and snacks are prepared onsite and were observed to meet CACFP guidelines. Food storage practices were generally appropriate; however, staff were reminded to ensure opened food items are dated and transferred to sealed containers or Ziploc bags when applicable. While at the center I turned off the oven as bread was burning. I addressed this personally with the staff that was in charge. A first aid kit was available and adequately stocked to address minor injuries. Documentation verified that fire and tornado drills are conducted monthly. Radon testing has been completed as well as a fuel burning inspection. The center has access to a fenced outdoor play area located adjacent to the building. The playground includes a concrete riding area with a grassy section in the center. While the outdoor space currently does not contain climbing equipment, staff identified the addition of climbing structures as a future program goal. Playground surfacing consists of wood chips; however, additional wood chips are needed to maintain adequate depth and coverage. The playground contains a sufficient variety of outdoor toys and equipment to encourage active play, exploration, and engagement among the children.

Staff demonstrated a commitment to creating positive experiences for the children in their care and continue to work toward enhancing the program through ongoing improvements

The center's current goal is to strengthen enrollment numbers and enhance community awareness of the services it provides to children and families.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is in the early stages of establishing itself. Shannon has reached out to local businesses and churches to share information about her program and generate community interest. Her outreach efforts have helped increase awareness of the center in the community and have begun building relationships that may support future enrollment growth.

A strength of the program is Shannon Zellner's utilization of community partnerships, including Goodwill Industries, to support staffing needs. These partnerships provide valuable employment opportunities within the community, promote an inclusive workplace environment, and help the center maintain adequate staffing while building strong community relationships

Shannon has worked cooperatively with CCR&R and has utilized available resources to support the development and improvement of her program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(2): Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.Mandatory reporting requirements.Notice of availability of the handbook.Name and contact information of the HHS licensing consultant.Program activities and menus.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at the main entrance of the center.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center’s care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.

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(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions:Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff.Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap.Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing must be maintained.The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must:Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water.Include safe play equipment and an area of shade.Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Shannen their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. (

There are currently two staff members working in the program, and enrollment remains low at this time. Shannon reports that she is able to recognize when she needs to step away briefly and will request assistance as needed to maintain appropriate supervision. During the interview process, Shannon also asks potential staff about personal triggers or stress points, and together they develop strategies to ensure that no one becomes overwhelmed while working with the children. Observations indicated that Shannon Zellner effectively supervised staff and addressed concerns promptly through verbal coaching and redirection. She appeared comfortable providing guidance and support to staff to ensure children received appropriate care and supervision.

I am requesting that staff complete the Active Supervision in Early Childhood training to further strengthen their understanding of effective supervision practices. Active supervision helps staff anticipate and prevent potential safety concerns by maintaining awareness of children's activities, positioning themselves strategically, continuously scanning and listening, and responding promptly to children's needs. This training reinforces strategies that support child safety, reduce the risk of injury, and promote positive engagement between staff and children. This class is in IPOWER and is free. Please have staff complete by April 1, 2027.

Continue to work with CCRR consultants. You are encouraged to hire an onsite supervisor who could assist with paperwork

Date: 10/25/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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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**.