Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Stella Sanford CDC - East

Provider No.: 51354

Address: 6100 Morningside Avenue, Sioux City, IA, 51106

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Danielle Haas

On-Site Supervisor: Melissa Atwood

Phone Number: 7122556832

E-Mail: dhaas@crittentoncenter.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/09/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/18/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	34	37	37		108
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 02/09/26, I completed an unannounced visit to the Stella Sanford Child Development Center – Eastside. During the visit, I met with onsite supervisor Melissa Atwood and center director Daniella Haas. Daniella holds an associate's degree in early childhood education and brings seven years of experience in childcare. She currently oversees this location along with three additional Crittenton Center childcare programs, while Erika Fuentes continues to provide overall program oversight.

Melissa Atwood, the onsite supervisor, has earned her Para Educator certificate and completed two years of college coursework toward a degree in Elementary Education. She has been a dedicated member of the center for 12 years, demonstrating strong commitment to children and families. Emma Coyle also assists with supervision, and both Melissa and Emma work closely with staff to ensure smooth communication and continuity of care. They emphasize end-of-day updates so that incoming staff have a clear understanding of classroom activities and routines.

The center is owned and operated by the Crittenton Center and serves children from six weeks of age through five years old. The program partners with the Sanford Center, which is located in the same building and provides services for school-age children. The daycare operates six classrooms organized by age group: two infant rooms for children ages six weeks to one year, a room for one-year-olds, a combined two- and three-year-old room, an older three-year-old room, a three- and four-year-old room, and a four- and five-year-old room. The center's licensed capacity is 108 children. At the time of the visit, the center had 75 children enrolled, with 56 children present.

All areas of the program were observed during the visit, including classroom environments and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, playground supervision, field trip and transportation practices, and an administrative review. This is a locked facility where staff need to let you in.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The center utilizes the Creative Curriculum, a research-based framework that supports developmentally appropriate practices and individualized learning. The program emphasizes the importance of learning through play as a foundation for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development, fostering curiosity, problem-solving skills, and a love of learning in a nurturing environment. Staff were observed engaging in excellent interactions with the children, demonstrating nurturing, kindness, and attentiveness throughout the day. Children participated in a variety of age-appropriate activities that promoted learning and development. Daily schedules of activities were clearly posted in each classroom, providing structure and consistency. The children's artwork was displayed throughout the center, showcasing creativity and fostering a sense of pride and belonging. Each classroom featured numerous visual aids and educational materials, creating a warm, inviting, and stimulating environment. Additionally, the center benefits from abundant natural light, contributing to a bright and welcoming atmosphere.

All staff participate in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) training, which promotes proactive strategies for supporting positive behavior and creating a safe, respectful learning environment. Ms. Attwood emphasizes the importance of strong communication among staff, noting that effective collaboration improves supervision and supports the use of appropriate, consistent discipline practices.

Proper diaper-changing procedures were observed, with staff following all required hygiene protocols. Effective sanitizing practices were consistently implemented throughout the center to maintain a clean and safe environment for children.

The center provides breakfast and snacks. The center has a kitchen to prep for lunches and simple breakfast. Children do not have access to the kitchen. The center participates in the CACFP program. Menus were posted

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. First aid kits are readily available throughout the center and equipped to treat minor injuries. Monthly fire and tornado drills are documented to ensure preparedness for emergencies. A radon test was completed, and results were within the normal range. The center also completed its annual heating system inspection. Each classroom is equipped with a carbon monoxide detector, further supporting a safe and healthy environment for children and staff.

The center features a fenced-in playground adjacent to the building, providing a safe outdoor play area for children. The playground includes a combination of rubber mulch surfacing, grassy areas, and cement sections, with an umbrella available to provide shade. For inclement weather, the center offers access to an indoor gym, ensuring children have opportunities for active play year-round. Monthly playground inspections are conducted to maintain safety standards. At this time, the program does not participate in field trips.

The program's long-term goal is to relocate to a new site, which is currently under construction. This move is intended to provide improved facilities and expanded opportunities for children and staff.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The leadership team reflects a high level of professionalism and experience, ensuring strong oversight and a consistent focus on quality care and positive outcomes for children.

This center has worked diligently to achieve Level 3 certification through Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K), Iowa's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System. Attaining Level 3 demonstrates the program's commitment to exceeding basic licensing requirements and implementing best practices in early childhood education. This level reflects strong performance in areas such as staff professional development, health and safety standards, family engagement, and curriculum implementation. The center uses assessment tools aligned with its curriculum to monitor children's progress and maintain continuous quality improvement. Achieving Level 3 signifies that the program provides a safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment while prioritizing ongoing training and collaboration to support positive outcomes for children and families.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Director will email consultant by 03-11-256confirming that items that fall below standards have been corrected.

It is recommended to continue to work with CCRR for support.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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

Date: 02/10/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.