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

Name of Center: Children's Choice Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 133 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 35651

Street: 115 S 3rd AVE **City:** Eldridge Iowa **Zip** 52748 **County:** Scott

Mailing Address: 115 S 3rd AVE, Eldridge, IA, 52748

Director's Name: Megan Burns **Phone Number:** 563-285-6500

On-Site Supervisor(s): Linnae Wingate **E-Mail:** Office@childrenschoice-eldridge.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-08-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-16-2024

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit 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	54	42	67	39	202
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: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 05-16-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 5/8/25. The large center is for profit and is owned by Shari Eller and Eller Foundations. Since April 2025, Megan Burns is the approved center director and was present and accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the majority of the visit. Megan has worked at the center for several years prior to becoming the primary director. The center participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program.

The center consists of the following program rooms: Sprout Court (18 months through 23 months); Bloomer Crossing (12 months to 18 months); Baby Boulevard (approximately six to 12 months); Lullaby Lane (six weeks to six months); High End Road (four/five years); Locomotion Highway (three/four years - and open on one end to High End Road); Snoopy Avenue (four/five years old and Voluntary prek room); Huggable Hills (younger twos); Adventure Place (older twos/younger threes - and open on one end to Huggable Hills); and Runaround Circle (school-age and also large motor room for all programs when school age children are not present).

Program rooms generally included an adequate supply of materials and age appropriate equipment to support programming needs. The youngest infant rooms are nicely arranged with readily accessible materials for the children.

Some rooms include adjacent restroom facilities with the exception of the infant and toddler rooms which do include diapering stations. High End Road room and Snoopy Avenue room have to travel over to the Locomotion Highway room to use the restroom area. Adventure Place must travel over to Huggable Hills to use the restroom area. Adventure Place and Huggable Hills rooms and their restroom area do not include any diapering stations. When needed the standing method is used for diaper changing in the restroom area. Most rooms contain or have access to additional sink(s) within the program space as well.

The center continues to mostly use mats for nap. Storage and sanitation of the mats and bedding items is always reviewed with the center. The center indicates that mat sheets are washed daily, and the mats are sanitized daily. Blankets are also washed daily in some of the rooms. As before mentioned, the center is encouraged to replace mats with stackable cots as soon as it is possible because they provide for easier sanitation, bedding may not have to be washed daily if stored correctly, and cots get children up off the floor. It is noted that the center has continued to replace some mats with cots.

All program space was observed.

The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. All meals/snacks are prepared on-site in the center's kitchen. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The kitchen area continues to be highly organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center owner, though recently stepping down as primary director for the center, has experience and training in the child care field and has assisted with operating this center since it opened. She also has extensive business administration experience. The newly qualified director appears highly motivated, has worked at the center for several years, and prior to

becoming director has been a part of the management team for the center. The program rooms are bright with windows and offer an ample amount of space. Many craft and project items from the children are on display throughout the center. The staff were again observed to be engaged with the children in activities. The center also has a video monitoring system that allows program rooms to be monitored from the director's office. Licensing documentation and child and staff files were again found to be highly organized.

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

109.10(3): Medications.
1. Medications present without current parent authorization form on file.
2. Expired medications present.
3. Medication authorizations shall indicate the reason the medication is needed.

109.10(9): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are: In the center. In the outdoor play area. On field trips.
1. Full first aid kits were missing some items from the checklist. Consultation provided regarding when and where fully stocked kits are required.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
1. Staff purses and miscellaneous choking hazards accessible to children in drawers/cabinets in Huggable Hills room.
2. Staff purse accessible to children in High End Road room.
3. Staff observed washing hands in sink labeled for food preparation only and immediately next to food and food service items on the counter space next to that sink.
4. Spray chemicals and plastic bags accessible on shelf in the restroom area of Runaround Circle. These items would be accessible especially to school age children who use the restroom area more privately.
5. Surfaces that are not considered non porous are being used for food service activities in the classrooms. These surfaces are not able to be properly cleaned and sanitized for this activity.

109.12(5)b: Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
1. Review diaper changing procedures as they are posted with staff. Staff observed leaving gloves on throughout the process, not washing children's hands after the diaper change, using wipes from the container during the diaper change (should get out just the materials needed prior to starting).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. Remind staff of hand washing requirements when involved with food service activities. Staff shall wash hands and keep them clean or re-wash prior to returning to food service activity.
2. Improve storage of water bottles for children so that they are handled in a more sanitary fashion.
3. Improve cot spacing as observed in Sprout Court room. At least two feet of space between cots is required.
4. Consultation provided regarding sanitary practices required for standing diaper changes. Restroom areas shall have the materials needed, and staff shall follow sanitary procedures.
5. The center is to research the issue of the chipping paint observed on a couple of the outdoor area structures to see if this should be repaired. The center has initiated contact with the child care nurse consultant for assistance.

The center will continue with a full license. Please address the violation(s) and/or concern(s) noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

*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.