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

Name of Center: Essex Child Center **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6955

Street: 513 Iowa AVE **City:** Essex Iowa **Zip** 51638 **County:** Page

Mailing Address: PO Box 421, Essex, IA, 51638

Director's Name: Annie McKinley **Phone Number:** 712-379-3870

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** essexcc@heartland.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-24-2024

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: 09-30-2021

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	12	10	20	17	59
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 08-09-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Essex Child Care Center on 7-24-2024. The center is a nonprofit corporation owned by the community of Essex, Iowa. The hours of operation are 5:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The center is located on the main street of Essex. It is a large store front building. Child care services are offered to infants to school age children. Anni McKinley continues to be the director. Annie has many years of child care experience, and was previously the on-site supervisor. Chelsey McAdams is on-site supervisor and is in charge when Annie is gone. I met with Annie McKinley during my licensing visit.
There are 49 children enrolled in the center.

Observation of rooms:
The program rooms looked nice and were in ratio. The children's fun art work was displayed.
The children were having fun playing. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The rooms had a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.
The center uses the Brightwheel child care app for CCA payments, communicating with the parents, children and staff login and daily sheets.
Each program room has lesson plans/activities.
The center participates in IQ4K level 1.

Nutrition:
The center uses the school for catering breakfast and lunch each day. The center provides the snack. The center is on the federal food program. Proper food storage was observed in the kitchen. Menus were posted. Thermometers were in the refrigerators/freezers.

Health and safety:
Radon testing was done in 3-2024 and the test results are over 4.0 pCi/L I referred Annie to talk to the radon specialist with the Iowa Department of Public Health to see what their next steps should be.
Medication management procedures are followed.
If you have fuel burning appliances please have an annual fuel burning inspection - The previous director reported there was a gas water heater.
The monthly fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented.
Proper sanitizing and disinfecting procedures were used, the center uses Purell Surface for sanitizing and Oxivir Tb for disinfecting, the 3 step bottles are used.
The center has made many repairs to the building in 2023 i.e. infant room interior/exterior wall repair, mold removal, floor joists, changing the water flow outside the building. The fire marshal gave approval to occupy with a time frame of having the repairs completed.

Playground:
The playground has one piece of Little Tykes commercial grade equipment with slides and picnic tables. The equipment is for children 18 months to 10 years old. The center has a shade structure, and poured in place surfacing.

Monthly playground safety inspections were documented.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. Some field trips are taken. The school age children went to the Henry Doorly Zoo on 7-24-2024, a school bus provides transportation. The program takes walking field trips to the park and library.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were read and were in excellent order.
Child files were read - two files needed a current physical and one needed the annual statement of health signed by the parent for a school age child. Registration packets are being completed at this time and these will be updated.
Annie has monthly staff meetings.
The center has a very active and supportive board. When a new staff is hired they provide onboarding and train staff in each room. Staff incentives are provided and quarterly team outings are held.
Annie does the staff fingerprinting for the national record checks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is a wonderful resource for the community and receives community support. Annie is very organized, and enthusiastic about the center.
Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they are positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Some staff have excellent longevity of working at the center.
The center has fundraising events during the year.
The center participates in IQ4K level 1.
The center has worked with their Child Care Resource and Referral worker and the child care nurse consultant.
The center receives grants for equipment and supplies.

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
109.10(1)b: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions.
Child files were read - two files needed a current physical and one needed the annual statement of health signed by the parent for a school age child.
Registration packets are being completed at this time and these will be updated.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for Essex Child Care for 11-1-2024 to 11-1-2026.

If you have fuel burning appliances please have an annual fuel burning inspection - The previous director reported there was a gas water heater.

*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.