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

Name of Center: Busy Bee Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 39 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50440

Street: 2650 10th St **City:** Marion Iowa **Zip** 52302 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO BOX 201, Marion, IA, 52302

Director's Name: Jennifer Johnson (co-owner and director) **Phone Number:** 319-447-1061

On-Site Supervisor(s): Laura Edaburn (co-owner and director) **E-Mail:** elcbusybee@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-28-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 01-17-2024

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 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	14	6	24	5	49
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-31-2024 to 10-31-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 11-21-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Busy Bee Early Learning Center - DBA (JLJA INC) commenced operations on 1/2/2019. The center was purchased from the previous owner by two employees who had been employed at that program for over 20 years. Busy Bee ELC operates year-round Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 6:00pm. The program serves primarily children age infant though preschool-age. Current enrollment is 39.

Co-owners and co-directors of Busy Bee ELC are Jennifer Johnson and Laura Edaburn. Ms. Johnson has a CDA in early childhood education, has over 20 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. Ms. Edaburn has a BA degree in early childhood education, has over 20 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisors are Taylor Williams and Mackenzie Croxell. Each on-site supervisor has at least 5 years of experience working with children and continue to participate in much child development related training.

On 10/28/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Busy Bee ELC offers a variety of early learning programming and childcare to help meet the needs of children and families in the community. Busy Bee ELC is located in a predominantly urban area and accepts a variety of funding sources.

Busy Bee ELC has established a private social media page.

The mission of Busy Bee ELC is to provide a "...safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for ages 6 weeks to 5 years..."

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Edaburn are local entrepreneurs invested in children and the community. The owners are celebrating their 5th year of business. Congratulations! Co-owners/co-directors are educated and experienced. The management team is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Both are knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Since the last review, Busy Bee has retained many seasoned staff as well as hired a few new ones. Staff reported celebrating 18 years, 5 years, and 1 month employment with this program. Management talked about having a good team of staff who are positive, hard-working and reliable. Staff team building experiences, appreciation activities, and recognition events continue to be part of the program's successful operations.

Busy Bee ELC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This program successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality

alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Busy Bee ELC continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed in clever ways (e.g. acorn handprint milestone, Jack-O-Lantern faces) throughout the center. Curriculum is theme-based encompassing learn through play, teacher-inspired ideas, social skills, and kindergarten readiness. Busy Bee ELC also offers guest speaker events, program-family conferences, fundraising opportunities, and seasonal/holiday celebrations.

Busy Bee ELC collaborates well with community agencies including local businesses, various school districts, CCR&R and health professionals.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Busy Bee ELC has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning notes and daily sanitation reminders were observed in various areas.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included Halloween, pumpkins, and community helpers. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, center play experiences, small group work, group discussion with weather and calendar, music with movement). Unique 2yo room Halloween inspired pumpkin-color matching activity was observed to be happening. Also, a very noteworthy experience in the 3yo room incorporated individual mummy costume-toilet paper dress-up activity followed by a 1 minute toilet paper "fight" with fun clean-up! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their day's experiences. Staff communicated well with children verbally, with picture cues and through modeling. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.