Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Hippity Hop Preschool

Provider No.: 18220

Address: 404 N Pine St, West Union, IA, 52175

County: Fayette

Director's Name: Tami Vagts

On-Site Supervisor: Tami Vagts

Phone Number: 5633806089

E-Mail: ctvagts@hotmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/19/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/06/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:40 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		7:40 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		7:40 AM to 2:20 PM	
Thursday		7:40 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		7:40 AM to 3:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/19/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Hippity Hop Preschool in West Union. I met with Tami Vagts, the director, owner and co-lead teacher. Ms. Vagts started Hippity Hop Preschool in 1987, but the preschool was not licensed through the Department of Human Services until 2004. Ms. Vagts has a diploma in early childhood development from NICC in Calmar and she is a NAEYC member. Kathleen Bonjour is the primary lead teacher for the statewide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. She has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. Amber Keller is the assistant in the classroom Monday through Friday. She started with the program in August 2025.

The program operates out of a classroom in Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center. This program only operates during the school year. The program operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 am until 3:15 pm. On Wednesday the program operates from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The program partners with the North Fayette Community School District to provide the voluntary preschool program through the statewide grant and this program operates on Monday and Wednesday. Children can arrive as early as 7:40 am. There are currently 20 children enrolled.

An inspection of the classroom was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is one primary center based on the current theme and they incorporate activities based on theme in other centers as well. There are pictures of the children's families. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Ipads, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, playdough, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff

members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

The Creative Curriculum is used to develop lesson plans and GOLD assessments are completed. They use Heggerty's Phonemic Awareness, Jolly Phonics, Alphatales, Handwriting Without Tears, and journals to assist the children in learning. Ms. Bonjour and Ms. Vagts develop the lesson plans together Monday through Thursday and Ms. Vagts develops lesson plans for Fridays. They maintain the same theme all week. Activities are planned around the theme. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest level. The program also participates in the Farm to Preschool program. There is a NEC projector in the room. Hippity Hop Preschool follows the Iowa Early Learning Standards. They partner with Keystone AEA to provide services to students with identified needs.

There is a phone in the classroom. The emergency numbers and the preschool's address and phone number are posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams are posted by the main program door and outdoor exit. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in February 2025 and is only good for two years because the building does have a radon mitigation system. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway of the childcare center near the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/06/25.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The children receive lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Lunch is prepared by North Fayette Valley School and delivered to the program. Parents pay a lunch fee. Children eat in the classroom and are served their lunch on trays. Parents provide the morning and afternoon snack. The program provides parents with healthy snack options. Parents pay a milk fee for snacks. Lunch menus were posted. Snacks are documented on a calendar. There is a refrigerator in the storage room and a thermometer was present. Dishes are washed using the dishwashers in the childcare kitchen.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

There are two bathrooms in the classroom. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. There are two sinks in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

Mats are used to nap and they were stored appropriately.

The preschool uses the childcare center playground. The playground has a fenced-in area and uses woodchips for fall surface cushioning. The area has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, playhouses, dramatic play items and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. There is a tree for shade. Ms. Vagts states they leave the gate open between the preschool and school age playgrounds so the children have more space to run on the grass. They can begin using the play equipment in the school age area once they turn five years old.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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The staff members in this program have amazing teamwork and comradery. I visited the program on a day when the voluntary four year old program was in session. Ms. Bonjour was giving instructions in a detailed step by step manner that was easy for the children to understand. All three teachers were assisting the children with their activities. They worked on cutting and pasting and talked about colors. Staff members provided the children with praise. They were enthusiastic but maintained a calm learning environment. Staff members acknowledged the feelings of children and offered a child the opportunity to sit in the quiet corner or to take a walk together in the hallway. After a learning activity at the table the children moved to the rug and Ms. Bonjour gave the children a lesson on Tucker Turtle and used a puppet. Soothing music was playing while the children worked. Ms. Vagts states they have found playing the soothing music has really helped the children maintain calm. I always enjoy visiting this program.

Ms. Vagts added a new feature to the classroom this year. After the children arrive at the classroom they walk up to the board with three buttons. Each night she records messages that the children listen to for each of the buttons. The first button talks about the book of the week. She states by the end of the week the children can tell them the story. The second button talks about a new nursery rhyme and the third button talks about their lesson. There are also pictures on the board that correlate to the message. Ms. Vagts states the children are excited to do this every morning and some of the parents stay to listen also.

Ms. Vagts states she attended a PBIS training and the classroom is now using a “Solution Box” There are visual aids in the box and the children can use them to express their feelings and come up with solutions when there are disagreements. Ms. Vagts states sometimes the children ask for the box to solve problems. She states they have seen this to be helpful in the classroom.

Ms. Vagts states they purchased a Lego table that has a top that allows the children to play with Legos on both the top side and the bottom side. She states the children can grab a mat and lay under the table to play.

The librarian visits the classroom every other week and the children can check out a book. The Fayette County Conservation office visits the program once each month. The program also participates in multiple field trips throughout the school year. The preschool program offers the children field trips every month of the school year except for December when they have a Christmas program. They use a school bus for transportation. Some of the locations they visit include the fire station, pumpkin patch, an apple orchard, they are going to a play at Luther College.

Ms. Vagts states they have the same staff members.

Ms. Vagts states they provide the children with routine.

Ms. Vagts states they have several ways to communicate with parents. They use email, text messages, messages in a notebook and a phone call if it is urgent.

Ms. Vagts states she created and has been the preschool teacher for Hippity Hop Preschool for 38 years.

The program partners with the North Fayette Community School District to provide children voluntary preschool services through the statewide grant.

Ms. Vagts states their children can ride the North Fayette Valley bus to and from school.

The program has a good working relationship with the daycare program they share the building with.

The program has a long history in the community and parents continue to enjoy sending their children to Ms. Vagt’s preschool program.

The program has a working relationship with Keystone AEA to help meet the needs of children with special needs.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There are no violations.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Vagts her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Vagts states the three of the staff who work at the preschool have talked and they agreed if someone is frustrated, they should walk out of the classroom to take a break and come back when they are ready. Ms. Vagts is always present in the classroom to monitor the situation.

Date: 10/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.