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

Name of Center: The Hawks Nest (Woodward-Granger CSD) **Enrollment:** 141 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38066

Street: 2200 State Street **City:** Granger Iowa **Zip** 50109 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 2200 State St, Granger, IA, 50109

Director's Name: Jill Vermaas **Phone Number:** 515-999-2287

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shelby Forristal **E-Mail:** jillvermaas@wghawks.school

Date(s) of Visit: 01-21-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-04-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-04-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years. The program will be due for another inspection in 11/2025.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	0	0	0	388	388
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-22-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 1/21/25. The director was present throughout the visit and the on-site supervisor for a portion of the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Hawks Nest is a center in Granger, IA that was given permission to open under HHS (formerly known as DHS) supervision on 8/24/15. The center serves children ages three through 12 years of age from the Woodward-Granger school district. During the school year, programming for school-age children is 6:30am - 8:00am and 3:30pm - 6:00pm (for early out days, operation hours are 2:15pm - 6:00pm). There is all day programming for three/four year old children (wrap around care after pre-school dismisses). During the summer months, the program is open 6:30am - 6:00pm. The center uses their own learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums. The program has permission to operate in both school buildings however, for the past several years, only the older school building is being used. The center uses two classrooms, the gym, and the cafeteria in the older building. When the newer building is being used, the center can utilize the gym and the cafeteria.

The center is overseen by a Board. The director is Jill Vermaas. Jill has many years' worth of experience working in child care as well as in the school setting. Jill has completed a number of professional development courses in addition to her experience. The on-site supervisor is Shelby Forristal. Shelby meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, the older school-age children were in one classroom and children three to five years of age in another classroom. In both classrooms, children were spaced out and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were also spaced out in the classrooms and they were engaged with the children. Children gave specific answers as to where they go for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center meets a need in a growing community.

The center offers services for younger children within the school district (wrap-around and drop-in care).

The director continues to believe that she has a good group of staff working for her. The director first tries to hire from within the school and then the community for those with knowledge of the school/community.

There is a good mix of tenured and newer staff.

The center has a website through the school district as well as a Facebook page.

The center has good working relationships with members of the community.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

With the program all being in one building, there is a better flow to the overall programming/structure.

Staff and children files were organized.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
1. There are still bolts along the fence where the sides come together that are longer than two threads showing. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.
2. The lamp in the preschool classroom needs to have the cord more secure rather than freely dangling/loose.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
1. Vanilla wafers are not considered a credible food item.
2. The times between the AM snack and lunch need to be adjusted some as discussed at the visit. THIS IS AN ISSUE FOR THREE YEARS NOW, BUT DIFFERENT THAN LAST YEAR (LAST YEAR WAS LUNCH AND PM SNACK).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center contracts with the school district for a bus and a bus driver during the summer months for field trips. Field trips are generally taken during the summer months, but may also be taken during breaks throughout the school-year.

It was previously noted that the school provides breakfast and lunch to children.

Radon testing is needed in the classrooms serving preschool children. Radon testing was last completed 1/8/21 - 1/11/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The boiler was last inspected per school maintenance on 1/19/23 and is again needed.

Staff should continue to upload their training certificates into I - Power and also keep hard copy certificates in files or the excel program the director uses.

The current and previous year's inspection forms should be kept on file.

It was noted that three children are due for annual updates in January 2025 from the files reviewed.

*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.