Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Graettinger-Terril Preschool

Provider No.: 52695

Address: 205 S Lincoln Ave, Graettinger, IA, 51342

County: Palo Alto

Director's Name: Jeremy Simington

On-Site Supervisor: Sara Hansen (lead teacher), Staci Girres (asst)

Phone Number: 7128593286

E-Mail: jsimington@gt.ratitans.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/05/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/04/2024

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		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday			
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			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Graettinger-Terril Preschool on 10-05-26 where I met with the school principal/director Jeremy Simington, and classroom lead teacher Sara Hansen. The program became licensed under DHHS in 2024 to allow for continuity of programming for years when there may not be a child under an IEP. The program offers a single session 3 year old preschool operating 4 days a week. There are currently 13 children enrolled in the program served by 2 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The layout and design of the classroom remains the same as in prior visits. The program operates out of a single classroom in a wing of the Graettinger school building. The classroom has a secondary exit providing direct egress to the outdoors and an enclosed playground space. Windows along the exterior wall provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. A restroom is available directly from the classroom so that children do not need to leave the room. An additional sink is available in the room which can be used for handwashing, and/or food preparation. The room has a large open floor plan which is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. Executive desks are arranged to define a teacher work space. The room is arranged so that there are no blind areas. The room was clean with no safety concerns related to maintenance noted. The toys and materials present in the classroom were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming & Interaction:

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The center uses the Creative Curriculum, and Launch Pad curriculums to establish lesson plans.
Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with all teachers being actively involved and working with the children to present the planned activities. In addition to Sara there were two teachers providing 1:1 services with two children. The school continues to offer opportunities to high school seniors to volunteer and assist in the classroom.
The program continues to use positive behavioral support approaches to encourage appropriate behavior. This included observed interactions of praise, redirection, identifying appropriate alternatives, and encouragement rather than directive confrontation. Examples included teachers allowing children to finish eating breakfast at their own pace, and encouraging children to rejoin the group if they wandered away but allowing them to pursue other interests that were nondisruptive.
All of the teachers presented positive and energetic attitudes.
Ratio was maintained as required including ensuring that interactions with the high school volunteers were also supervised by the classroom teachers.

Health & Safety:
The school custodial services are responsible for much of the facilities maintenance including cleaning but the teachers also sanitize tables and other surfaces as needed throughout the day.
Good handwashing practices were observed during the visit with the teachers directing the children to wash their hands after using the restroom, and before meals. Hand sanitizer was also available and provided by the teachers as a supplemental option. The teachers did provide assistance and supervision to ensure that the children washed their hands in an effective manner as needed.
The parents provide sleeping mats, bags, and blankets for children that nap, and the program maintains some mats and items for children who's parents do not provide those items.
Response plans were present in the classroom for children with identified allergies and health concerns.
The school has addressed the issue regarding excessive water temperatures by installing an automixer valve on the sink.

Nutrition:
Breakfast was being served at the time of the visit and was served in the classroom.
Lunch is prepared and served in the school cafeteria and follows the planned school menu. The class does follow the requirement of the Child and Adult Care Food Program ensuring that requirements such as providing reduced fat white milk are provided.
Lunch is served in the cafeteria at the same time as the high school students but the preschool children do sit at a separate table. The teachers sit and eat with the children to provide supervision.
Snacks are provided by the program and served in the classrooms. A limited selection of snack options are maintained in the classroom and good food storage practices were observed.

Playground:
As noted the classroom has a secondary exit that opens directly to the outdoors and a preschool playground space. The space is an inner courtyard enclosed by the building on 3 sides, and fenced on the 4th.
The playground has a paved walk area, and an area with climbing structures and swings. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present in fall zones.
Shade is limited to that which would be provided by the buildings, and the equipment.

Administration:
All required notices for No Smoking, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, Consultant Contact, and the License Certificate were posted. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, handwashing, daily schedule, and planned curriculum were also present.
All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information.
Staff files were reviewed and contained all required information though Sara's national record check had expired.
Inspection logs and certificates were current and valid.
The center parent handbook was reviewed and while all required written policies were present some needed to be expanded to ensure all required elements were present. This included Incident Reporting (substantial change in functioning, sexualized behavior), Access (sex offenders)

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional

history that occurs.
-- Documentation of a renewed National FBI Fingerprint based background check had expired for 1 employee and needs to be renewed.

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

Contact was made with the school district HR department who confirmed that they would renew the required national background check.

A list of required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/08/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.