Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Orange City Head Start

Provider No.: 30221

Address: 1103 Lincoln Circle SE, Orange City, IA, 51041

County: Sioux

Director's Name: Kendra Rensink

On-Site Supervisor: Betty Steenblock

Phone Number: 7127373889

E-Mail: krensink@midsioux.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/21/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/01/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:15 AM to 1:15 PM	
Tuesday		9:15 AM to 1:15 PM	
Wednesday		9:15 AM to 1:15 PM	
Thursday		9:15 AM to 1:15 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

I conducted an unannounced monitoring visit at this center on 09/21/26. During the visit, I met with Rachel Kamstra as the onsite supervisor, Ms. Steenblock, was not scheduled to work that day. Ms. Steenblock holds an elementary education degree with an early childhood endorsement and brings more than thirty years of experience working with young children.

The Orange City Head Start classroom is situated in a lower-level room within the Crittenton Daycare Center. The program operates Monday through Thursday, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., serving children ages three to five. Head Start services are integrated with the universal preschool program offered in the building.

Observations included classroom routines, learning activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, playground conditions, transportation protocols, and administrative documentation. There are 11 children enrolled in this classroom, and 8 were present during my visit. As this is a multilingual setting, educational materials and classroom labels are provided in both English and Spanish. The environment features a wide variety of visual displays, including seasonal themes, children's artwork, family photos, a picture schedule, numbers, shapes, and the alphabet. The center follows the High Scope curriculum, which focuses on active, hands-on learning. Children are encouraged to make choices, explore materials, and talk about what they are learning. Teachers support them by guiding conversations, joining in their play, and helping them think through problems. A consistent daily routine helps children feel secure and confident. Overall, the approach creates a warm, engaging classroom where children learn through curiosity, interaction, and meaningful experiences.

The classroom offers well-developed learning centers that support exploratory and independent play. Areas available to the children included music, toys, books, blocks, puzzles, dramatic play, science, writing, puppets, sand and water tables, housekeeping, and art. Materials and equipment were organized, plentiful, and suitable for the number of children present.

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They followed the teacher's guidance while moving around the room, promoting listening skills, coordination, and creative expression.

A posted daily schedule outlined the planned activities. Meals for the classroom are prepared by the MOC school district and delivered to the Orange City Daycare. Menus were available, and appropriate food-storage practices were noted. The program follows CACFP nutrition standards. Daily hygiene routines incorporate engaging songs to reinforce handwashing and tooth-brushing habits.

Monthly fire and tornado drills have been conducted and required playground inspections are up to date. Radon testing results were within acceptable limits, and a fire inspection has been completed. The program shares a large, fenced playground with the daycare. The outdoor area includes slides, climbing structures, and wood-chip surfacing. Additional surfacing material is needed to maintain appropriate depth. Shade is available. For days with inclement weather, the Head Start class has access to the childcare gym for indoor gross-motor activities. Head Start buses are used for transportation needs.

Staff remained actively connected with the children throughout the visit, creating an atmosphere where students felt comfortable and supported. Children freely approached staff with questions, showing clear trust and openness. I also observed a strong rapport between teachers and students, which helped encourage critical thinking as children explored ideas, asked questions, and engaged in meaningful conversations.

Goals are to increase enrollment and pursue a higher level of IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center is IQ4K certified at level 3. Being certified at IQ4K Level?3 shows that the center has moved beyond basic requirements and is actively strengthening its practices across multiple areas of quality. At this level, programs demonstrate higher standards in staff training, daily routines, documentation, family engagement, and the overall learning environment. Level?3 also reflects ongoing participation in continuous quality improvement, meaning the center regularly reviews its practices and makes thoughtful changes to support children's development. Achieving this level signals a strong commitment to providing safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate care for young learners.

The staff's experience and nurturing approach have a noticeable impact on the children. Their warm interactions help children feel secure, confident, and eager to participate. Because the environment is supportive and relationships are strong, children are more willing to ask questions, try new activities, and engage in critical thinking. This foundation helps them develop independence, curiosity, and positive social connections—all of which strengthen their overall learning experience.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with Rachel regarding their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

Rachel shared that all staff are trained in PBIS, a framework that focuses on teaching positive behaviors, building strong relationships, and creating a predictable environment where children feel supported. This training helps staff respond to behaviors in calm, consistent ways and encourages children to develop social-emotional skills through positive guidance. She also explained that the team has worked together for several years, which has created a supportive and collaborative work environment. Staff feel comfortable asking one another for help, especially if they need a short break, ensuring the

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classroom remains calm and children continue receiving consistent attention. Head Start provides ongoing trainings throughout the year and maintains staffing levels that allow for positive interactions and shared responsibilities. Staff also benefit from additional support and training opportunities provided by other Head Start personnel, strengthening their skills and teamwork.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 09/21/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.