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

Name of Center: East Union Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 54 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36219

Street: 1916 High School DR **City:** Afton Iowa **Zip** 50830 **County:** Union

Mailing Address: 1916 High School DR, Afton, IA, 50830

Director's Name: Peggy Hardy **Phone Number:** 641-347-5790

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sue Hardisty **E-Mail:** phardy@eastunionschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-15-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-28-2020

Comments :

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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		18	54	15	87
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 03-13-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit to East Union Early Childhood Center on 2-15-2023. The program is located in the East Union Community School building. The program provides preschool, wrap around child care services to preschool age children, and before/after school age child care from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday (preschool program time is 8:15 am to 3:15 pm). During the summer and school breaks i.e. Christmas break and spring break school age child care is provided. There are 54 children enrolled. Peggy Hardy became the director in August 2022. I met with Peggy Hardy during my visit. Sue Hardisty is the on-site supervisor. The program has a combination of NAEYC accredited, Empowerment, Shared Visions and Statewide Voluntary programs.

Observation of rooms:
Each preschool room has a lead teacher with a Bachelor's Degrees in teaching.
There are four preschool rooms, one room provides care to 2 1/2 to 3 year olds and the other three rooms provide care to 3 to 5 year olds.
All rooms were in ratio and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The activity centers, equipment/toys are rotated on a frequent basis. Children were eating lunch and taking naps during my visit. The staff were attentive to the needs of the children. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans/activities. Each room provides newsletters for the parents.
Each preschool room has gym and music class once a week with the respective elementary school teacher.
The library and the preschool rooms are used for the school age program, the school age children were in school at the time of my visit. Make sure you have written lesson plans/activities for the school age program.
The center has good staff longevity, the staff enjoy their jobs and love working with the children.
In Mrs. Lear's room the cots need to be covered.
Please review the diaper changing/hand washing procedures with staff, as a staff person didn't was their hands after a diaper change.
There was a lot of clutter in this rooms, please make sure all rooms are clean and free of clutter.
Family fun nights are provided throughout the year - a meal is provided and fun learning activities.
The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app.

Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. The school provides lunch Monday - Thursdays and the center prepares lunch on Fridays. The center provides breakfast and snacks. During the summer the center provides the snacks and they participate in the free breakfast and lunch program. The children eat in their preschool rooms.

Health and safety:
If a child is prescribed medication the center follows proper medication management procedures.
Four radon tests were completed in December 2022 and the test scores were in the acceptable range. The program has first aid kits.
The center has all electric appliances, and they have carbon monoxide detectors.
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented.

Oxivir Tb is used for disinfecting and Sani T is used for sanitizing and they are using the three step procedure - 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting.
As mentioned previously please review diaper changing/hand washing procedures with staff as a staff didn't wash their hands after changing a child's diaper.

Playground:
The center has a wonderful nature explore outdoor classroom, and they were Nature Explore Certified in 2016. The area has a stage, digging, tunnels/tubes, sand box, benches, and a shed. Pea gravel is used for surfacing. The center practices and documents monthly playground inspections. Each room has an exit to the outdoor classroom.

Administrative records:
The center has all of the emergency procedures and the emergency preparedness plan.
The center rotates each month between a family fun night and the next month is a staff meeting. Peggy meets with the lead teachers every Monday and once a month with the assistant teachers.
Staff files were read and Peggy was unable to locate criminal and national record checks and staff physicals. You will need access to this information. Please review all staff files and make sure they have all of the DHS required information. Make sure all staff have current criminal and national (fingerprinting) record checks. It was reported that a person in the school office completes the record checks for the center.
Ten child files were read, one file was missing current registration information and a current physical. Please review all children's files and make sure they have all of the DHS requirements.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Peggy Hardy is working very hard as the new director and is learning all of the DHS requirements. Staff are very enthusiastic, creative and proud of the program
The rooms have wonderful age and developmentally appropriate equipment. The center uses Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold, and the Gold reporting. The outdoor nature explore classroom is a great asset to the program and they truly embrace all it has to offer. They are Nature Explore Certified.
The center will apply for IQ4K.
Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they are encouraging and have fun with the children.
The center recently began using the Brightwheel childcare app.
Family fun nights are held every other month - a meal is provided and the families participate in a fun, hands on learning activity.
AEA will be hosting a Yoga night.
The center applies for grants.
Cameras have been installed in the classrooms.
The center has NAEYC and NAC Accreditation.

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

109.4(3)a: Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at main entrance of center.
109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents.
109.4(5): Child Care Centers and Preschool Licensing Standards and Procedures shall be available in the center and a notice stating a copy is available for review. Contact information of the child care consultant shall be included in the notice.
Please review the posting requirements and make sure you provide this information on a parent posting board or area.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Staff files were read and Peggy was unable to locate criminal and national record checks. You will need access to this information. Please review all staff files and make sure they have all of the DHS required information. Make sure all staff have current criminal and national (fingerprinting) record checks. It was reported that a person in the school office completes the record checks for the center.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Staff files were read and Peggy was unable to locate staff physicals. You will need access to this information. Please review all staff files and make sure they have all of the DHS required information.

109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center.Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After diapering a child.Before leaving the rest room either with a child or by themselves.Before and after administering nonemergency first aid if gloves are not worn.After handling animals or cleaning cages.
Please review the diaper changing/hand washing procedures with staff, as a staff person didn't was their hands after a diaper change.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Please review the diaper changing/hand washing procedures with staff, as a staff person didn't was their hands after a diaper change.
There was a lot of clutter in this rooms, please make sure all rooms are clean and free of clutter.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
In Mrs. Lear's room the cots need to be covered.

Please send me an email by March 31, 2023 and let me know how the items listed above have been corrected. A referral to Child Care Resource and Referral will be made for assistance with the noncompliance areas listed above.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for East Union Early Childhood Center for 4-1-2023 to 4-1-2025.
Please send me an email by March 31, 2023 and let me know how the noncompliance items listed above have been corrected.

A referral to Child Care Resource and Referral will be made for assistance with the noncompliance areas.

You will need an approved fire marshal inspection by 4-28-2023.

*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.