Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Hartley Community Daycare

Provider No.: 29556

Address: 441 N 2nd Ave West, Hartley, IA, 51346

County: Obrien

Director's Name: Kaity Harms

On-Site Supervisor: Jayna Dolphin

Phone Number: 7129283292

E-Mail: hartleydaycarecenter@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/04/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/07/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	43	17	39	20	119
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit to the Hartley Daycare Center at their new building. Director Kaity Petley was not present at this time, but I was able to meet with onsite Jayna Dolphin who has many years of experience working in Daycare. Kaity and her team have worked diligently to revitalize the center through the development of this new building. The center plays a vital role in the community and its close proximity to the school makes it a highly convenient and accessible location for families.

The center offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere, enhanced by large windows that fill the space with natural light. This bright and open environment creates a calming and cheerful setting for children, supporting their emotional well-being and engagement in learning. The thoughtful design also helps families feel comfortable and at ease during drop-off and pick-up, fostering a strong sense of connection and community. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., providing care for children ranging from infants to school-age. This wide age range allows for continuity of care and supports families with children at different developmental stages. To ensure the safety and security of all children and staff, the center utilizes a secure entry system. Parents and staff are provided with a unique access code to enter the building. All other visitors must be granted access by a staff member, reinforcing the center's commitment to maintaining a safe and controlled environment.

There are 65 children enrolled in this program and there were 31 kids at the time of my visit.

The classroom environment was rich with visual and educational materials, including displays of colors, shapes, the five senses, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet. Staff were observed actively engaging with children throughout the visit—assisting with a variety of activities, leading group exercises, reinforcing classroom rules, and

maintaining ongoing, positive communication.

The center uses the Experience Early Learning curriculum. This research-based curriculum supports whole-child development through hands-on, play-based learning experiences. It includes monthly thematic units that integrate language, math, science, social-emotional learning, and creative arts, all designed to align with early learning standards. Experience Early Learning is integrated into the Brightwheel childcare app, which the center uses to communicate with families. Through Brightwheel, parents receive real-time updates on their child's activities, learning experiences, and daily routines, helping to strengthen the home-to-center connection. Each classroom is thoughtfully arranged with designated learning centers that promote development through play-based experiences. These centers may include areas for dramatic play, blocks, art, literacy, sensory exploration, and fine motor activities—encouraging children to explore, create, and learn at their own pace.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), ensuring that all meals and snacks meet established nutritional guidelines. Meals are served family-style, promoting social interaction and independence among children. Proper food storage practices are followed, and the refrigerator was observed to be clean and well-maintained. At the time of the visit, no children were receiving medication. The center equipped with a first aid kit that is sufficient for treating minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are conducted and documented monthly, demonstrating the center's commitment to emergency preparedness and child safety.

The center features a fenced-in playground located adjacent to the building, providing convenient and secure outdoor access for children. The play area includes rubber mulch surfacing around the climbing equipment, offering a safe and cushioned environment for active play. Shade is available to protect children from direct sun exposure, and a privacy fence surrounds the playground, enhancing both safety and a sense of enclosure. The center does not transport children at this time.

Goals of the center include becoming NAEYC accredited which means that the childcare or early learning center has met the highest standards of quality in early childhood education, as set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)—a leading professional organization in the field. This national recognition indicates that the program meets rigorous standards in areas such as curriculum, teaching practices, health and safety, family engagement, and staff qualifications. Accreditation also demonstrates the center's dedication to continuous improvement and providing a nurturing, developmentally appropriate environment for young children

I further encourage them to work on the IQ4K certifications as well.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff are actively engaged with the children in their care, consistently interacting and supporting them throughout the day. Many staff members bring years of experience and long-term commitment to the program, contributing to a stable and nurturing environment.

The center is located very close to the school, which supports a strong and collaborative relationship between the two. This proximity allows for smooth transitions and communication, benefiting both children and families who utilize services from both programs.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Please wash children's hands after diapering.

Please keep all chemicals in a locked cupboard or out of reach of children.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for building as they build a new building and for IQ4K program.

Director needs to email consultant confirming all other items that are below standards are completed by 12/31/25
A full license is recommended at this time.

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

Date: 12/05/2025

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**.