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

Name of Center: East Union Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 78 **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:** 641-347-5215

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

Date(s) of Visit: 04-22-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 04-30-2024

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: 3

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:** 07-09-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit to East Union Early Childhood Center on 4-22-2024. 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 78 children enrolled - 44 preschool children and 34 school age children. Peggy Hardy became the director in August 2022. I met with Peggy Hardy during my visit. Lindsay Eklund is in charge when Peggy is gone. 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. The children were having fun playing , participating in an activity, and having circle time during my visit. The staff were positive and 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.
Family fun nights are provided throughout the year - a meal is provided and fun learning activities.
The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app.
Please remove push pins/tacks from bulletin boards and in the center as they can be a health and safety hazard if a child swallows them.

Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. The school provides lunch and 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. Since you are in a school the Department of Education is responsible for making sure radon testing is completed and the Department of Health and Human Services doesn't need to monitor this. 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.
Bleach/water was being used for sanitizing and disinfecting. Please review your bleach/water mixing instructions as it didn't

appear that the bleach/water was being mixed properly for 32 oz. Please use the three step bottle procedure - 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. For bleach/water you must refer to the specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions, if the directions aren't on the bottle you will need to refer to the website on the bottle. In the past the center used Oxivir Tb for disinfecting and Sani T for sanitizing - you may want to consider using these products again. You can also consult with your child care nurse consultant for other options for sanitizing and disinfecting.

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.
Peggy meets with the lead teachers weekly and monthly with the assistant teachers. Staff meetings are also held.
Staff files were read and were in good order. Children's files were read and were in good order.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Peggy Hardy and the staff are 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 participates in IQ4K level 3.
Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they are encouraging and have fun with the children.
The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app.
Family fun nights are held throughout the year - a meal is provided and the families participate in a fun, hands on learning activity.

The center applies for grants.
The center has NAEYC and NAC Accreditation.

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. 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.
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V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for East Union Early Childhood Center for 4-1-2023 to 4-1-2025.
Off year licensing visit 4-22-2024.

*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.