Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Waukee Head Start

Provider No.: 28400

Address: 425 Ashworth Dr, Waukee, IA, 50263

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Tonya Weber

On-Site Supervisor: Jaime Tigges, Kelly Warthan, Rosalinda DeLaCruz

Phone Number: 5159787428

E-Mail: tweber@newopp.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/22/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/17/2026

Comments: Waukee Fire Marshal. Licensing requirements are that these inspections are done at least every three years.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:15 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:15 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		8:15 AM to 3:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	32	20	54	0	106
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/22/26. On-site supervisor, Jaime Tigges, was present throughout this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Waukee Head Start is one of several Head Start programs operated by New Opportunities Inc. which is based out of Carroll, IA. The program moved into a newly constructed building on the site of the former building in 7/2026. Tonya Weber is the director of this program as well as other New Opportunity Head Starts. Tonya has a Master's degree as well as a Bachelor's degree. The on-site supervisors at this location are Jaime Tigges, Kelly Warthan and Rosalinda DeLaCruz. All individuals meet the requirements for their positions and titles.

The program serves children six weeks through five years in age. The program operates Monday - Friday, 8:15am - 2:45pm or 9:00am - 3:30pm (four/five year old preschool) during the school year. There are some variations of times children can attend. The program utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum with children. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 58 children. Capacity of classrooms are as follows:

20 children (four/five year old children)
8 children (18mo - 36mo)
8 children (18mo - 36mo)
17 children (three/four year old)

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

17 children (three/four year old)
8 children (0 - 18 mo)
8 children (0 - 18 mo)
20 children (gross motor room)

NUTRITION: The center cooks/provides breakfast and snacks to children. Lunches are cooked and delivered by Ashworth Learning Center in West Des Moines. The food menu is posted for the week and all meal items met CACFP requirements. The center participates in CACFP. Children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs. All food storage was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not transport and they do not go on field trips.

PLAYGROUND: There are two playground areas based on ages of children. Both playgrounds are fenced in. Both playgrounds contain climbing structures and have rubber matting for surfacing (one playground still under construction with surfacing and thus, not yet being used). The building provides some shade. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted. Maintenance arrived near the end of the inspection and they started cutting the bolts along the fence and gate so that no more than two threads to the bolts were showing.

During the inspection, only three rooms were in use as the center is still building their enrollment since moving into the new building. Children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations within classrooms. Specifically, children were observed playing with blocks, manipulative toys, dramatic play toys, and art/writing. Toys, tables, cribs, cots, mats, etc. are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more challenging child behaviors, the center utilizes the Handle with Care training. There are staff on site to assist with child behaviors. All New Opportunities programs also have family advocates and other professionals at their disposal internally as well as externally (AEA, CCR&R). Management makes themselves available to assist as needed. Communication between staff, staff and children, and staff and parents are stressed. Staff are trained on when to know they may need a break.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center moved into a brand new building in 7/2026. There are more classrooms, an indoor gross-motor room, more space, and more storage than the previous building provided.

The program participates in the food program (CACFP).

The program is part of the Head Starts run by New Opportunities in Carroll, IA. This program, as well as other New Opportunities Head Starts, have the same policies and procedures in place so there is continuity. Programs can also share staff as needed.

There are regular staff meetings (weekly and/or monthly) held that are agency wide as well as local programs.

Communication with parents is highly stressed throughout the year in the form of home visits (two per year), parent teacher conferences (two per year), the use of a family advocate, monthly newsletters ,etc.

There is a mix of tenured and newer staff. Staff reportedly work well together and communicate well with each other.

There is a secure entrance into the program. Security cameras are also in place.

Files were nicely organized.

The center provides services to children five days a week and days are slightly longer than what they were in the past to better accommodate children and families.

Enrollment remains steady.

Good child/staff interactions were observed.

The center has new smart-touch boards/TVs used for educational purposes for children three and older.

There are good community partnerships.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

There are several bi-lingual staff on site.

All classrooms have phones.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing.
Children's bedding should not be touching other children's bedding while being stored.

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

None.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was conducted in all classrooms 9/4/26 - 9/8/26. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection will be due no later than 7/2027.

The carbon monoxide detector is built into the building system.

I-Power was again discussed at the inspection. All staff appear to have I - Power profiles. First-Aid/CPR, and Mandatory Reporter will need to be manually uploaded into profiles.

It is recommended walkie talkies be purchased for staff to communicate with each other more quickly.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 09/23/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.