Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Graettinger Terril CSD Preschool

Provider No.: 30269

Address: 101 S Schooley St, Terril, IA, 51364

County: Dickinson

Director's Name: Shannon Lange

On-Site Supervisor: Connie Miller

Phone Number: 7128536111

E-Mail: slange@gt.ratitans.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/21/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/24/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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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 2:30 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 3:30 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			21		21
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was completed on 10/21/26. During the visit, I met with Director Shannon Lange. Shannon has extensive experience working with young children and families. Her background includes teaching Kindergarten, working in Head Start programs, operating a Registered Child Development Home, and earning a degree in Elementary Education. Her knowledge and experience are reflected in the quality of the program and classroom environment.

The preschool program is located within Terril Community School and serves four-year-old children. A separate three-year-old preschool program is operated at the Graettinger site. The Terril preschool is open Monday through Thursday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and offers both half-day and full-day programming options. At the time of the visit, there were 10 children enrolled and 10 children present.

A review was completed of all areas subject to licensing requirements, including classroom activities and learning experiences, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, transportation and field trip practices, and administrative records.

The classroom was well-organized and thoughtfully arranged to support children's learning and development. An ample supply of developmentally appropriate materials, toys, and educational resources was available for children's use. The daily schedule was posted and provided children with clear expectations and consistency throughout the day. The learning environment was inviting, engaging, and rich with educational opportunities. Classroom displays included letters, shapes, colors, information related to the five senses, a globe, a visual daily schedule, a classroom job chart, and children's artwork. These materials helped create an environment that supported early literacy, independence, self-expression, and exploration. A notable strength of the program is its emphasis on family involvement. Children regularly take-home family projects that

encourage participation and interaction between children and their caregivers. These activities help strengthen the connection between home and school while supporting children's learning outside of the classroom. Another strength observed during the visit was the program's use of community partnerships to enhance learning opportunities. Children participated in an activity presented by the Farm Bureau, which focused on pumpkins and agriculture. Children explored pumpkins by examining the inside of the pumpkin and using the seeds for a counting activity. The lesson provided a hands-on learning experience that incorporated early math concepts while encouraging curiosity and exploration. The program is commended for bringing community resources into the classroom and providing meaningful enrichment opportunities for children. The program currently utilizes the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum, which provides developmentally appropriate activities to strengthen fine motor development, handwriting readiness, and early literacy skills. In addition, the program has recently adopted the Teaching Strategies curriculum. This comprehensive curriculum supports children's development across multiple learning domains and emphasizes intentional teaching practices, individualized learning opportunities, ongoing assessment, and family engagement. The curriculum allows staff to plan meaningful experiences that build upon children's interests while supporting school readiness skills.

The classroom appeared clean, organized, and well maintained. Documentation confirmed that fire drills and tornado drills are conducted monthly. Playground inspections were completed as required, and both radon testing and fuel-burning appliance inspections were current. A first aid kit was available and adequately stocked to address minor injuries.
The outdoor play area was observed to be in good condition, with equipment that appeared well maintained and appropriate for the ages of the children served. Protective rubber mat surfacing was present beneath playground equipment to help reduce the risk of injury. Transportation needs are met through the use of school buses when necessary.

Overall, the program provides a welcoming and engaging environment where children have opportunities to learn, explore, and develop new skills. Strong family involvement, community partnerships, and a commitment to providing hands-on learning experiences contribute to a high-quality preschool experience for the children and families served.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

A strength of the program is the high level of engagement demonstrated by staff. During the visit, staff were actively involved with the children through conversations, learning activities, and daily routines. Children appeared comfortable, confident, and familiar with classroom expectations. The preschool follows a consistent daily schedule, and children transitioned smoothly between activities with minimal prompting. This reflects well-established routines and a predictable classroom environment that supports children's independence, self-regulation, and overall success. Staff have clearly worked to create an atmosphere where children know what to expect and feel secure in their daily experiences.

A significant strength of the program is the positive relationship staff have established with families. Staff work to create meaningful connections with parents and caregivers and encourage ongoing family involvement in children's learning. One example of this is the use of take-home family projects, which provide opportunities for children and family members to learn and work together outside of the classroom. These activities help strengthen the connection between home and school, promote communication among family members, and allow families to become active participants in their child's educational experience. This strong partnership between staff and families supports children's success and contributes to a positive program culture.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.9(1)b: 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.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.

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

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

I discussed behavior management oversight with Shannon Lange. Shannon reported that the preschool has a stable staff team, with both staff members having worked together for many years. This consistency has helped staff develop strong communication skills and a collaborative approach to supporting children.
Shannon indicated that she helps staff understand expectations by modeling positive interactions, appropriate behavior guidance techniques, and developmentally appropriate responses to children's behaviors. She regularly communicates with staff regarding classroom expectations and is available to provide support and feedback as needed.

Program will email consultant by 12-31-26 confirming that items that are below standards have been completed.

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: 10/26/2026

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**.