Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: East Union Infant Toddler Center

Provider No.: 52762

Address: 508 Pearl Street, Afton, IA, 50830

County: Union

Director's Name: Peggy Hardy

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6413475215

E-Mail: phardy@eastunionschools.org

HHS Visit Date: 05/07/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/27/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] 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	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	23	23			46
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to East Union Infant Toddler Center on 5/7/26. This is a new center that is located in a residential area of Afton, Iowa. The center opened on 3/3/25. The building was previously an elderly care facility. The building was remodeled to accommodate a child care center. Child care services are provided to infant and toddler age children. The center has another center, East Union Early Childhood Center, located in the school that provides child care services to preschool and school age children. Peggy Hardy is the director of both centers. Peggy has an Elementary Teacher's Degree with an Early Childhood Ednorsemet. She has been director at the other center for four years. The center has an advisory board and the school board oversees the center. There are 45 children enrolled. I met with Peggy during my visit. There were 35 children present at the time of my visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center is a locked facility and the parents each have a code to get into the building. Inside the front door is an area for car seats. The front room is where children start their day until there are enough children to go to their age specific rooms. It allows for large motor skills and has toys for playing. There are a restroom and diaper changing station in this area. Please make sure all sinks throughout the building have handwashing signs posted. Cameras are in each room. Upon entering the building there is a large TV that shows each room. This allows parents to see what is going on in each room before they pick up their child. All rooms were in ratio. The center looks beautiful. The rooms are well decorated and there are a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There are four programming rooms - Infant room, mobile infant room, two-year-old room, and two and one-half year-old room. The center has a reception area, laundry room, nursing room, staff work room, multi-purpose room off the entry, etc. All rooms were observed. Staff had excellent interactions with the children; they were nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children. The center uses the Brightwheel child care app. The daily sheets looked good. They are on the Brightwheel child care app. The center has

lesson plans/activities. The lead teachers create the lesson plans.

Nutrition:
The center has a very large kitchen. They have a cook and meals are prepared on-site. Menus are posted. The center follows the CACFP food guidelines even though they are not on the federal food program yet. Make sure all refrigerators/freezers have thermometers. The infant freezer did not have a thermometer. Proper food storage was not observed. Please place all food in an airtight container after opening and label the container.

Health and safety:
Medication management procedures are followed if a child is prescribed medication. The Child Care Nurse Consultant is going to the center in June to do medication administration training. Fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented. The staff breakroom is the primary tornado shelter, but there are alternate tornado shelters throughout the building such as the adult restrooms. Radon testing was completed in the building, but one room was above a 4.0 pCi/L. Testing will be redone to determine if they need a mitigation system. The one room that was above the acceptable range is a room that is not currently in use. The building has all electrical appliances therefore an annual fuel burning inspection is not required. The center is following the three-bottle procedure for sanitizing and disinfecting. They are using Purell Surface for sanitizing and Oxivir Tb for disinfecting. There is a molded changing pad in the infant room. Staff clean underneath the molded changing pad at the end of the day but clean the changing pad itself after each use. Please check with the CCNC about proper disinfecting guidelines. Please make sure the sides of the diaper changing station are high enough so the infant will not roll off. Toys are sanitized daily or more often if needed. The rooms have yuck buckets. There were plastic bags in the infant and toddler rooms. This is a health and safety hazard. Please remove all plastic bags from the rooms. In the mobiles' room there are both cribs and cots. There is a climbing toy with stairs and a small slide in the mobiles' room and on the toddlers' playground is a small climbing and rock wall piece of equipment. Both of these likely need fall surfacing. Please talk with your CCNC about fall surfacing. In the two and one-half year-old room is a sink that the center has been using for handwashing and also for filling water bottles. This is a risk for cross contamination. Please use the sink for either handwashing or food prep/filling water bottles. Peggy said they would use it for handwashing and would fill water bottles in the kitchen.

Playground:
The center has playground areas for the children. Each room has a door that exits to each room's playground. They have received grants for playground equipment. Monthly playground safety inspections are completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Seven children's files were reviewed. Two were missing the dentist's name and phone number. Please review all files to make sure they have all the required information. The CCNC is scheduled to go to the center in June and do a file review. Three staff files were reviewed. One was missing first aid/CPR certification, one was missing Universal Precautions, one was missing a current physical exam, and one was missing their annual personal development training.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Peggy and staff are very enthusiastic and proud of the new center. The center is a wonderful resource for the community and the community has been very supportive of the new center. Peggy is very confident and organized. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. Grants have been received for the playground, various equipment, etc. The center works with the Child Care Nurse Consultant. They are scheduled to meet with her in June 2026 for medication administration training and records review. The CCNC will also address some concerns identified during this year's visit. Peggy identified their strengths as having low staff turnover, they participate in the TEACH and WAGE$ program, there is good community support, and they take drop-ins.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Three staff files were reviewed. One was missing first aid/CPR certification, one was missing Universal Precautions, one was missing a current physical exam, and

one was missing their annual personal development training.

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. Seven children's files were reviewed. Two were missing the dentist's name and phone number.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children. Two of the rooms had plastic bags in the room. This is a health and safety hazard. Please remove all plastic bags immediately.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. Proper food storage was not being used. Please put all food after opening into an airtight container and label the container. There was no thermometer in the freezer in the infant room. In the two and one-half year-old room, the staff were using the sink for both handwashing and filling water bottles. This is a risk for cross contamination. Please use the sink for one or the other.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 3/1/25 to 3/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Peggy her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Peggy said at orientation and staff meetings that they talk about how it's not a flaw if they are getting short tempered and need help. They do not put hands on a child except on their trunk to reduce the risk of injury. They have cameras in every room. If Peggy sees anything in person or on the camera, it is addressed individually. Peggy has one-on-one meetings with staff quarterly. They discuss children's behaviors at collaboration which is for all the lead teachers. Staff meetings are held quarterly. They utilize AEA and can reach out to CCR&R.

Date: 05/11/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.