Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sloan Head Start

Provider No.: 30189

Address: 2711 South Helen, Sioux City, IA, 51106

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Rachel Ostermeyer

On-Site Supervisor: Maggie Butler

Phone Number: 7122741610

E-Mail: cbeatty@caasiouxland.org

HHS Visit Date: 05/20/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2025 to 06/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/15/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 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	0	16	92	0	108
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 05/20/26, I completed an unannounced visit to the Sloan Head Start and Early Head Start Program located at the Sloan site. During my visit, I met with On-Site Supervisor Maggie Butler. Maggie has many years of experience with Head Start and recently completed training in the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT), an assessment tool that helps staff support positive social–emotional development and implement effective classroom practices. Rachel Ostermeyer, who serves as the director of this program along with several related programs in the area.

The Sloan building includes seven classrooms: two Early Head Start (EHS) rooms and five Head Start classrooms. The Early Head Start program serves children ages six weeks to two years, as well as a classroom of 2- to 3-year-olds. EHS operates year-round, with hours from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Head Start programming operates from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Mondays and 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. In addition, Head Start offers extended child-care hours during the school year from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The licensed capacity of the center is 108 children. At the time of my visit, 100 children were enrolled, with 16 present on-site.

I observed all areas of the program, including classroom environments and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative operations.

I was able to observe each classroom during my visit. Each room had an ample supply of toys, materials, and age-appropriate equipment available for the number of children enrolled. The daily schedule of activities was posted, and the learning environment was thoughtfully organized. Throughout the rooms, materials such as colors, shapes, the five senses, a

globe, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet were displayed in engaging and accessible ways for the children.
During my observations, staff were actively engaged with children in a variety of meaningful interactions. I observed staff assisting children with activities, talking with them consistently, leading simple exercises, reminding children of classroom expectations, and sitting with them at tables during meals.

The center follows the High Scope curriculum, which is a research-based, child-centered approach that emphasizes active learning. In High Scope classrooms, children learn by doing—exploring materials, making choices, and engaging in hands-on activities. Teachers support this learning by observing children closely, asking open-ended questions, and providing intentional guidance that builds on each child's interests and developmental level. I observed the transition from outdoor play back into the classroom. The routine was well-planned and smooth, with children coming inside calmly, washing their hands, and moving on to their next activity with ease. This demonstrated strong classroom management and clear expectations that the children were familiar with. This center has made a clear and consistent effort to maintain strong hygiene practices. Easy-to-read posters for both staff and children were displayed throughout the building, offering guidance on proper diapering procedures, handwashing steps, and cleaning routines. These visual reminders support healthy habits and help ensure that sanitation practices are followed throughout the day.

In one classroom, there is a bird feeder placed just outside the window, allowing children to watch birds as they come to eat. This type of nature-based learning experience is valuable because it nurtures curiosity, builds early science observation skills, and encourages children to notice patterns and details in the world around them. Watching birds helps children develop patience, focus, and respect for living things, while also offering a calming moment in their day. It is a simple yet meaningful way to connect children with nature and spark conversations about wildlife and the environment.

The center offers a variety of activities designed to help children identify how they are feeling each day. Staff work closely with the children to support their understanding of emotions and to guide them in managing feelings such as frustration or anger in appropriate and healthy ways. These practices help build strong social–emotional skills and provide children with tools they can use in many situations.

Meals are provided through the Sioux City Community School District. The program demonstrates strong food-storage practices, and staff follow all required CACFP guidelines as part of their participation in the CACFP program. Weekly menus were posted and easy to view. Before each meal, tables were thoroughly sanitized, and I observed both staff and children practicing proper handwashing procedures. These routines support a clean, healthy mealtime environment and reinforce good habits for the children.

First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month along with playground inspection. Radon test and Furnace inspection were completed and kept in their main binder. The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector.

The goal for this center is to increase staff.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Additional curriculum used in the program includes Kindermusik, Move Mindfully, and Conscious Discipline. Kindermusik supports early learning through music, movement, rhythm, and song, helping children build language, motor, and social skills in a playful way. Move Mindfully teaches children simple breathing, movement, and relaxation techniques that help them manage emotions and stay focused throughout the day. Conscious Discipline provides a framework for helping children understand their feelings, develop self-regulation skills, and build healthy relationships. Together, these curriculum components support the whole child—socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.

This center holds a Level?4 rating in the Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) system, which reflects a strong commitment to high-quality early childhood care and education. A Level?4 rating indicates that the program goes beyond basic requirements and consistently demonstrates advanced practices in areas such as nutrition, professional development, family engagement, teaching quality, and overall classroom environment. This recognition shows that the center is dedicated to providing a well-rounded, supportive, and developmentally appropriate experience for young children.

Head Start is designed to support not just the child, but the entire family. The program partners with parents through regular communication, family goal-setting, and opportunities to participate in classroom activities and special events. Families are

encouraged to be part of decision-making and to work closely with staff to support their child's development. Head Start also connects families with community resources, offering support in areas such as health, nutrition, education, and social services. This whole-family approach strengthens the child's learning environment both at school and at home.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Ms. Butler regarding her behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

Her staff is trained in PBIS, which emphasizes using positive, proactive strategies to support children's behavior and social–emotional development. Ms. Butler meets with her staff each morning to discuss any challenges they may face during the day and to problem-solve together so concerns can be addressed right away. One of her favorite techniques is deep breathing, which she practices with both staff and children. She models this frequently and demonstrates strong composure, encouraging her team to maintain healthy boundaries between their work lives and personal lives.

The Head Start program also works hard to compensate staff fairly and create a supportive work environment. Classrooms are equipped with cameras to assist with monitoring and to ensure safety. Ms. Butler is attentive to the tone and energy in each room; when she hears a staff member's voice becoming louder, she checks in to see if they may need a break. She maintains an open-door policy, and she and her staff communicate regularly about situations as they arise, fostering a culture of trust, reflection, and teamwork.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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

Date: 05/20/2026

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**.