Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Atlantic Head Start Preschool

Provider No.: 6231

Address: 54233 Olive St, Atlantic, IA, 50022

County: Cass

Director's Name: Danni Segebart

On-Site Supervisor: Emily Harris

Phone Number: 7122434001

E-Mail: DSegebart@westcca.org
wmueller@westcca.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/05/2026

Licensing Period: 12/01/2026 to 12/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/10/2026

Comments: Plan of correction received 9/22/26

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 3:15 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Wednesday		8:15 AM to 12:30 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Friday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
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			45		45
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Atlantic Head Start Preschool on 10/5/26. The program is located in a one-story building on the highway outside of Atlantic, Iowa. Ten children are enrolled in the program and eight were present at the time of my visit. The program serves 3–5-year-old children. Danielle Jessen is the lead teacher. She has been with the program since November 2015. She became the lead teacher in 2025. I was able to meet with Jennifer Duff, the education manager, at the time of my visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center has one class room. The room looked great and is arranged into fun and inviting activity centers. There are a variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children's fun artwork was displayed on the wall. The gym has a play area with a fun wooden structure, kitchen area, and block area. I observed the children participating in circle time in which they were singing and dancing and doing small group activities. The staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Staff were very patient with one of the children that had more challenging behaviors. The center uses Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies Gold, and Second Step which focuses on social and emotional skills. Weekly lesson plans and activities are documented. Danielle makes lesson plans two weeks in advance. Parent teacher conferences are held with families in which goals and progress are discussed. Staff have a home visit with the student and family before the student starts in the classroom and a final home visit in May. They have parent teacher conferences in October and March.

Health and safety:
Medication management procedures are followed; the medications are locked up and a medication log is used. There is a health and nutrition coordinator who helps make sure staff follow proper medication management procedures. The center

uses bleach water for sanitizing and disinfecting. Bleach water needs to be mixed daily. There is a mat for the students that is used to change diapers. This is not recommended for sanitary, and health and safety purposes. Please consult with your nurse consultant to discuss this issue and other options. There is also not a separate waste container for diapers. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste. Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. The first aid kits are properly stocked. Radon testing was done in January 2025 with a score of 4.0 pCi/L. The building has a mitigation system so radon testing is due every two years. The building has all electrical appliances so an annual fuel burning inspection is not required. When children are present, the water is tested daily by the city. The center also does bi-annual lead testing. Jennifer and the on-site supervisor update emergency preparedness procedures annually.

Nutrition:
The center began having their meals catered from Treat America/Company Kitchen in September 2019. Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack are served. The program participates in the federal food program. The monthly menus are posted. Proper food storage was maintained. Staff take the temperature of the food when it arrives and again before it is served.

Playground:
The center has a very nice playground with a large piece of playground equipment. There are a slide, sandbox, and other fun activities. A new concrete area was installed in the summer of 2023 for riding tricycles. Shredded tires are used for surfacing. The center documents monthly playground safety inspections.

Transportation:
The center does not provide daily transportation services. SWITA provides transportation to many of the children.

Administrative records:
The program has all the required postings, policies, and procedures. Three children's files were reviewed and were in good order. All children’s files have complete medical emergency contact information. Two staff files were reviewed on a prior date at the administrative office and were in good order. Head Start staff receive training on an ongoing basis. They started using the Learning Genie App in 2025 which is a communication tool to use, as needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff had excellent interactions with the children. Monthly newsletters are provided to the families. There are two parent teacher conferences a year as well as two home visits a year. Staff receive ongoing training throughout the year. Jennifer identified the center’s strengths as child safety, staff growth with building staff within, and professional development.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(3): Infectious disease control: Centers shall establish policies and procedures related to infection disease control and use of universal precautions with handling of bodily fluid. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste. There is also not a separate waste container for diapers. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste.

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. There is a mat for the students that is used to change diapers. This is not recommended for sanitary, and health and safety purposes.

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 12/1/26 to 12/1/28.

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Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Danni Segebart, the director of West Central Community Action Head Starts, her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Danni said staff receive a lot of training. They take positive guidance training at the time of hire and annually thereafter. At six months they take PBIS training. The staff receive coaching. There are behavioral coaches and mental health disability coordinators to work with staff. There are monthly staff meetings that involve a lot of staff members with several specialists. Staff are able to tag out if they are feeling overwhelmed.

Date: 10/16/2026

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**.