Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: The Hawks Nest (Woodward-Granger CSD) **Enrollment:** 141 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38066

Street: 2200 State Street **City:** Granger Iowa **Zip** 50109 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 2200 State St, Granger, IA, 50109

Director's Name: Jill Vermaas **Phone Number:** 515-999-2287

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shelby Forristal **E-Mail:** jillvermaas@wghawks.school

Date(s) of Visit: 01-24-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-04-2023

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 11-04-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	388	388
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-25-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 1/24/24. The director was present throughout the visit.

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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

The Hawks Nest is a center in Granger, IA that was given permission to open under HHS (formerly known as DHS) supervision on 8/24/15. The center serves children ages three through 12 years of age from the Woodward-Granger school district. During the school year, programming for school-age children is 6:30am - 8:00am and 3:30pm - 6:00pm (for early out days, operation hours are 2:15pm - 6:00pm). There is all day programming for three/four year old children (after pre-school dismisses). During the summer months, the program is open 6:30am - 6:00pm. The center uses their own learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums. The program has permission to operate in both school buildings however, for the past several years, only the older school building is being used. The center uses two classrooms, the gym, and the cafeteria in the older building. When the newer building is being used, the center can utilize the gym and the cafeteria.

The center is overseen by a Board. The director is Jill Vermaas. Jill has many years' worth of experience working in child care as well as in the school setting. Jill has completed a number of professional development courses in addition to her experience. The on-site supervisor is Shelby Forristal. Shelby meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, children were observed in the gym and both classrooms. In the gym, children were engaged in large motor activities. In the two classrooms, children were divided up into smaller groups and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were spaced out and attentive to the children and their activities and needs.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment remains steady.

The center offers services for younger children within the school district (wrap-around and drop-in care).

The director continues to believe that she has a good group of staff working for her. The director first tries to hire from within the school and then the community for those with knowledge of the school/community.

There is a good mix of tenured and newer staff.

The center has a website through the school district as well as a Facebook page.

The center has good working relationships with members of the community.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

With the program all being in one building, there is a better flow to the overall programming/structure.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.9(1)d: 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.
Number not in compliance: 1 newer staff member does not have a current physical on file.

109.10(11): Smoking and use of tobacco products shall be prohibited in the center and every vehicle used to transport children. Prohibited in outdoor play area during hours of operation. Nonsmoking signs shall be posted at every entrance and in every vehicle used to transport. Signs shall include: Telephone number for reporting complaints. Internet address to DPH.
A No Smoking sign was not posted at the main entrance.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
The bolts along the fence and the gate surrounding one of the climbing structures still needs to have the bolts cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
The timeframes between the AM snack and lunch still need to be adjusted so that meal time requirements are met. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center contracts with the school district for a bus and a bus driver during the summer months for field trips. Field trips are generally taken during the summer months, but may also be taken during breaks throughout the school-year.

It was previously noted that the school provides breakfast and lunch to children. However, this will change some this coming summer.

Radon testing is needed in the classrooms serving preschool children. Radon testing was last completed 1/8/21 - 1/11/21. Radon levels came back 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 boiler was last inspected per school maintenance on 1/19/23 so it is again due now.

Information on the new fingerprinting process (Field Print) was again discussed at the visit.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff need to have professional development training uploaded to their profiles. Annual required professional development training does not include First-Aid, CPR, Mandatory Reporter, or Universal Precautions, however these should also be uploaded into I - Power profiles.

It was noted one newer staff has roughly one month left (within first 90 days of hire) to complete the above trainings.

Brightwheel and Playground were discussed at the visit.

This consultant shared the CACFP food application with the director. It is recommended this also be shared with parents.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.