Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: East Union Early Childhood Center

Provider No.: 36219

Address: 1916 High School DR, 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: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/30/2024

Comments: fire inspections are due every three years

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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		18	54	15	87
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to East Union Early Childhood Center on 5/7/26. The program is located in the East Union Community School building. The program provides preschool and wraparound child care services to preschool age children Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM. Before and after school child care is offered to preschool and school age children from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday during the school year, during the summer, and school breaks. There are 50 children enrolled including preschool children and school age children. Peggy Hardy became the director in August 2022. She is also the director at East Union Infant Toddler Center. Peggy has an Elementary Teacher's Degree with an Early Childhood Endorsement. I met with Peggy Hardy during my visit. Lindsay Eklund is in charge when Peggy is gone. The program has a combination of statewide voluntary programs, Child Care Assistance, parent tuition, and scholarships.

Observation of rooms:
Each preschool room has a lead teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in teaching. There are three preschool rooms that provide care for three- to five-year-olds. The rooms were in ratio and the children were napping. The rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The activity centers and equipment/toys are rotated on a frequent basis. There were a few children who were not napping. The staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans/activities. Each room provides newsletters for the parents. The school age room was not being used at the time of my visit as the children were in school. Make sure you have written lesson plans/activities for the school age program. Family fun nights are provided quarterly in which a meal is provided and fun learning activities are held. The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app. Some of the children have a 1:1 aide. The children may have an IEP and AEA involvement. The center works closely with AEA and the school psychologist. The center plans to reach out to CCR&R.

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Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. The school provides lunch and the center provides breakfast and snack. During the summer the center provides the snack and they participate in the free breakfast and lunch program. The children eat in their preschool rooms. The center has two kitchens used to prepare meals and snacks for the children and do not use the school kitchen.

Health and safety:
The center follows proper medication management procedures if a child is prescribed medication. Four radon tests were completed in December 2022 and the test scores were in the acceptable range. Since you are in a school the Department of Education is responsible for making sure radon testing is completed and child care licensing no longer monitors radon testing. The program has first aid kits. Peggy said the center has all electrical appliances therefore no fuel burning appliance inspection is required. Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. The center is following the three-bottle procedure for sanitizing and disinfecting. They are using Purell Surface for sanitizing and Oxivir Tb for disinfecting.

Playground:
The center has two sides to their playground. On the stage side of the playground, there is water play, music, dramatics, and a garden. On the bike side there are riding toys, racetrack, and one climbing structure. Rubber tiles are used for surfacing. The center practices and documents monthly playground inspections. Each room has an exit to the outdoor classroom.

Administrative records:
The center has all of the emergency procedures and the emergency preparedness plan. Peggy meets with the lead teachers weekly and with the assistant teachers monthly. Staff meetings are also held. Three staff files were reviewed. One staff member had their physical exam on the wrong form. Please have this staff member get their physical exam on the state approved form. Six children's files were reviewed. Two were missing current physical exams and one was missing permission to secure emergency medical or dental care in case of an emergency.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Peggy Hardy is confident as the director; she is organized and supportive of the staff. The staff had excellent interactions with the children; they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The rooms have wonderful age and developmentally appropriate equipment. The center uses Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold. The outdoor nature explore classroom is a great asset to the program and they truly embrace all it has to offer. They are Nature Explore Certified. The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app. Family fun nights are held quarterly at which a meal is provided and the families participate in a fun, hands-on learning activity. The center applies for grants. The center has good staff longevity, the staff enjoy their jobs, and staff love working with the children. Peggy said their strengths are low staff turnover and the before and after school staff are school employees such as paraeducators.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. Six children's files were reviewed. Two were missing current physical exams and one was missing permission to secure emergency medical or dental care in case of an emergency.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full license is recommended for 4/1/25 to 4/1/27.

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 they use positive guidance and redirection. They will take children for a walk if they are overstimulated. There are cameras in every room. There are in-person training and webinars for the staff.

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**.