Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-North Benton

Provider No.: 25160

Address: 202 E 4th St, Vinton, IA, 52349

County: Benton

Director's Name: Deidra Benser

On-Site Supervisor: Shannon Galloway

Phone Number: 3194724761

E-Mail: cregan@hacap.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/07/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/18/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			36		36
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/07/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to HACAP Head Start-North Benton in Vinton. I met with Deidra Benser, the director and lead teacher. Ms. Benser has an AA in education and a BA in early childhood education. She has previous experience working in childcare. She started with the program in August 2022. The other staff members in the classroom are Shannon Galloway and Roni Sager. Ms. Galloway is the on-site supervisor and an assistant who has been employed by Head Start since May 2007. Ms. Galloway has her CDA and plans to get her AA in early childhood education. It is her career goal to become a lead teacher. Ms. Slager is also an assistant in the classroom and she has her CDA. She started with the program in October 2023.

Chris Juett and Christi Regan are the program managers for this site. Amie Beranek is the family support worker.

The program operates out of a building in downtown Vinton. It operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm and serves children aged three through five-years-old. There are eleven children enrolled.

The program operates out of a large room. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors, and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time. They were within ratio the day of the visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, Play-Doh, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, magnets, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities and allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

There are two bathrooms used by the class. One bathroom has one toilet and two sinks, and the second bathroom has two sinks, two toilets and a diaper changing table. Handwashing procedures and diaper changing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms in the building.

The program uses the Creative Curriculum and Second Step to prepare lesson plans. They follow the Iowa Early Learning Standards. GOLD assessments are completed on each child. The teachers also complete ASQ & ASQ-3 Ages and Stages Assessments for the children's social and emotional development. I Am Moving, I Am Learning is used for physical well-being and motor development. They incorporate STEM/STEAM activities. Activities are based on themes. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest level. Monthly newsletters are provided to parents to inform them of studies, activities and special dates.

A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

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Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. The program is using solution kits in the classroom. This allows staff members to use flash cards with visual choices so children can try to solve their own problems. The program partners with Grant Wood AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. The children receive hearing, vision and dental screenings. The children also receive fluoride varnish applications on their teeth.

They have Head Start Storytime once each week at Vinton Public Library with Ms. Kelli.

The program uses “Engaged”, which is part of Smart Teach to send activities to parents that they can do at home with their children. Head Start has a program cell phone that parents can text for communication.

The program does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by HACAP. The HACAP building in Vinton where the Head Start is located is also a Senior Dining site. They have cooks and a licensed kitchen on site that is inspected by the Department of Inspections and Appeals. Snack is prepared by Head Start staff members. The children eat in their classroom using family style. They receive new menus each month from the HACAP dietician. Menus were posted. Allergies were posted in a confidential manner in the classroom. Disposable products are used for snack. Real dishes are used for breakfast and lunch. Dishes are returned to the HACAP kitchen to be cleaned and sanitized in a dishwasher. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is a refrigerator in the room and in the hallway and thermometers were present. Head Start has the children brush their teeth after eating.

The program is using Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing table.

Cots are used to nap. Bedding was stored appropriately.

There were two complete first aid kits.

Emergency phone numbers with the program’s address and phone number and the poison control number were posted near all the phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for five years because the program does not have a radon mitigation system. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was in the classroom and in the staff lounge. Outlets were covered. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/18/24.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

There is a playground on the east side of the classroom. There is no climbing equipment. They have turf for surface of the playground. They have a sandbox, sensory tables, playhouse, dramatic play center, pushing toys and bicycles. Helmets are used. They have a canopy they put up for shade during the summer months. There are chairs for the children to rest.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members had terrific teamwork and communication with one another. They have a good routine with the children and staff members have defined roles. When I arrived, the children were engaged in free play and then they went outside to the playground. Staff members were spread out on the playground to provide clear supervision. While in the classroom, staff members provided the children with praise and encouraged children to use their imaginations. They provided clear and easy to understand directions. They made transitions fun for the children. Staff members modeled good manners and acknowledged when the children used good manners. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

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Ms. Benser states they have a solid team of teachers. The three teachers work well together and she does not need to delegate because staff members jump in to help.

Ms. Benser states they are flexible and they help one another out.

The program has monthly family meetings. They have good parent participation and take pictures of the activities to post in the entrance. It is important to get families engaged in the program. They have a parent representative on their policy council.

Ms. Benser states they walk to the library every week. They walked to the fire station in October. They also take walks around town. In the spring they visit the community garden.

Ms. Benser states the program is important because it provides an environment for children to build relationships and make friends.

The program makes two home visits and offers two parent-teacher conferences each school year.

The program has an IQ4K level of 3 that expires on 08/30/27.

Ms. Benser states they are going to buy more outdoor activities and STEM activities.

Ms. Benser states I-Smile visits twice each year to give the children fluoride treatments and provide a dental check-up. The Lion's Club provides vision screenings. Grant Wood AEA provides hearing and mental health observations.

Ms. Benser states the second Wednesday of each month is "World Wednesday". They do bi-lingual Storytime with the children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There are no citations.

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to remove Lisa Wieck as the on-site supervisor. She is no longer with the program. Shannon Galloway if the new on-site supervisor.

I met with Ms. Benser after my observations at the program. They had a great visit and will not have any citations.

Date: 10/30/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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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**.