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

Name of Center: Hippity Hop Preschool **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18220

Street: 404 N Pine St **City:** West Union Iowa **Zip** 52175 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: 12491 287th St, West Union, IA, 52175

Director's Name: Tami Vagts **Phone Number:** 563-380-6089

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tami Vagts **E-Mail:** ctvagts@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-16-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-17-2023

Comments : Compliance 08/06/23

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-16-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/16/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Hippity Hop Preschool in West Union. I met with Tami Vagts, the director, owner and co-lead teacher. Ms. Vagts started Hippity Hop Preschool in 1987, but the preschool was not licensed through the Department of Human Services until 2004. Ms. Vagts has a diploma in early childhood development from NICC in Calmar and she is a NAEYC member. Kathleen Bonjour is the primary lead teacher for the statewide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. She has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. Marla Feldman is the full-time assistant in the classroom. She started with the program in August 2013.

The program operates out of a classroom in Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center. This program only operates during the school year. The program operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 am until 3:15 pm. On Wednesday the program operates from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The program partners with the North Fayette Community School District to provide the voluntary preschool program through the statewide grant and this program operates on Monday and Wednesday. Children can arrive as early as 7:40 am. There are currently 16 children enrolled.

An inspection of the classroom was completed. 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. There is one primary center based on the current theme and they incorporate activities based on theme in other centers as well. There are pictures of the children's families. There is an area for circle time.

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

Hippity Hop Preschool participates in the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). They partner with Keystone AEA to provide services to students with identified needs. The Creative Curriculum is used to develop lesson plans and GOLD assessments are completed. They also use Heggerty's Phonemic Awareness, Jolly Phonics, Alphatales, Handwriting Without Tears, and journals to assist the children in learning. Ms. Bonjour develops the lesson plans on Monday and Wednesday and Ms. Vagts develops lesson plans Tuesday , Thursday and Friday and maintains the same study all week. Activities are planned around studies. The length of the study depends on the topic and the children's interest level. The program also participates in the Farm to Preschool program. There is a NEC projector in the room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and their address and phone number posted in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program door and outdoor exit. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in March 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel

burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway of the childcare center near the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/17/23, with compliance on 08/06/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The children receive lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Lunch is prepared by North Fayette Valley School and delivered to the program. Parents pay a lunch fee. Children eat in the classroom and are served their lunch on trays. Parents provide the morning and afternoon snack. The program provides parents with healthy snack options. Parents pay a milk fee for snack. Lunch menus were posted. Snacks are documented on a calendar and they were posted. There is a refrigerator in the storage room and a thermometer was present. Dishes are washed using the dishwashers in the childcare kitchen.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

There are two bathrooms in the classroom. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. There are two sinks in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

Mats are used to nap and they were stored appropriately.

The preschool uses the childcare center playground. The playground has a fenced in area and uses woodchips for fall surface cushioning. The area has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, playhouses, dramatic play items and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. There is a tree for shade. Ms. Vagts states they leave the gate open between the preschool and school-age playgrounds so the children have more space to run on the grass. They can begin using the play equipment in the school-age area once they turn five-years-old. The children look forward to this.

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.

Staff members have amazing teamwork. They have worked together for many years and have a great routine. They are both terrific with the children. They provide a positive and fun learning environment for the children. They interact with the children at their level. They used positive redirection when necessary. Ms. Vagts uses repetition to teach. Ms. Feldman sat on the floor with the children as Ms. Vagts read them a book regarding the letter they were learning that week. Ms. Vagts asked each child to pic out a picture in the book that starts with the letter. The children then completed a worksheet for the letter. Staff members sang and danced to fun videos with the children. Staff members provided the children with praise. They encouraged the children to try tasks on their own but assisted when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Vagts is in the process of applying for an IQ4K level 1.

Ms. Vagts states they are the only preschool that offers five days of classes each week. The other programs offer four days.

Ms. Vagts states they have staff longevity. Ms. Vagts and Ms. Feldman have worked together for ten years. They have a terrific working relationship and provide consistent staff for the children and families.

Ms. Vagts states they have one center directly related to the theme and they incorporate the theme in other centers in the room also.

Parents can use the North Fayette buses to transport the preschool children to and from school.

The program partners with the North Fayette Community School District to provide children voluntary preschool services through the statewide grant.

The preschool program offers the children field trips every month of the school year except for December when they have a Christmas program. They use a school bus for transportation. They visit the fire station, pumpkin patch, an apple orchard, they are going to a play at Luther College, they are going to visit the recycle center and they are going to Gilbertson Nature Center. In addition to visiting locations the library visits twice each month and the children can check out books. Gilbertson Nature Center also visits the center once each month.

Ms. Vagts states they have great communication with their parents.

Ms. Vagts states they expose the children to a variety of activities and experiences.

Ms. Vagts states they prepare the students for kindergarten.

Ms. Vagts has been the owner and a teacher at Hippity Hop Preschool since 1987. This provides consistency and stability to the families and children. She has great experience.

The program is in a secured building.

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

N/A

V. 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.

*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.