Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mills County Head Start

Provider No.: 52700

Address: 58962 380th Street, Hastings, IA, 51540

County: Mills

Director's Name: Danni Segebart

On-Site Supervisor: Tracy Reed

Phone Number: 7127557537

E-Mail: dsegebart@westcca.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/30/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/16/2024

Comments:

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			16		16
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Unannounced licensing visits were made to Mills County Head Start on 9/28/26 and 9/30/26. I arrived on 9/28/26 but there was no school. I spoke with the lead teacher, Emily Ray. I returned for another unannounced visit on 9/30/26. Emily Ray showed me around. This a new center that opened on 10/31/24. The center is located in the old East Mills School in Hastings, Iowa. Services are offered to children three to five years old. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:15 AM to 3:15 PM and Wednesday 8:15 AM to 12:30 PM during the school year. Danni Segebart is the director and Tracy Reed is the on-site supervisor. Nine children are enrolled but only five were present on the day of my visit.

Observation of room:
When I arrived, the children were going over their daily schedule and then began playing in the centers. Today was costume day as they follow the East Mills School calendar and since it is homecoming week, they try to do fun things. Some of the kids were dressed up. The programming room looks great and has a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The room is arranged with fun activity centers. The children were doing small and large group activities. Three staff were present during my licensing visit. The children were having fun playing in the activity centers. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive, nurturing, and having fun with the children. They have lesson plans/activities. Emily makes the lesson plans using Creative Curriculum. There is a bathroom in the programming room with two toilets and two sinks at the counter. Learning Genie is used for communication with parents. The children use a rope to guide them every time they leave the room. They teach life skills including brushing their teeth after breakfast, sweeping, and folding sheets. Mills County Head Start shares the building with other agencies. The building is a locked facility and the Head Start room also is locked.

Nutrition:

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Treat America/Company Kitchen delivers the meals every day. Breakfast, lunch, and snack are provided. Menus are posted. Thermometers are used. There is a staff member who works in the kitchen. She takes the temperature of the food when it arrives and again before it is served. No outside food is allowed due to allergies. If parents want to come eat with their children, they are able to if it is scheduled in advance. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. Staff will follow medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication and they have the medication log. There is a boiler inspection that doesn't expire until 7/31/27. Radon testing was completed in October 2025 and was in the acceptable range. Radon testing is due every five years if the results are less than 4.0 pCi/L. Sheets are washed weekly. Bleach water is used for sanitizing. It is mixed first thing every morning. Please use the three-step bottle process for both sanitizing and disinfecting: 1. Soap and water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. Your EPA and child care approved products for sanitizing and disinfecting. Please refer to the specific bottle of bleach you are using for mixing instructions for sanitizing and disinfecting. If the mixing instructions aren't on the label, please refer to the website on the bottle for mixing instructions. Bleach water needs to be mixed daily. Spic and Span is used for disinfecting. There is a mat in the restrooms 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 not a waste container for diapers that is separate from other waste.

Playground:
There is a nice playground with two climbing structures. They had tricycles, a water table, and sensory table. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing. They have a shade tarp which is new this year. There is also an indoor gym. Monthly playground inspections are being completed.

Transportation:
The SWITA (Southwest Iowa Transit Agency) bus provides pick-up and drop-off locations in Glenwood and Malvern.

Administrative records:
I reviewed three children's files. They have emergency contact information for family, emergency contacts, pick-up information, and doctor and dentist information. Two staff files were read on a previous date at the administration building and were in excellent order. Head Start provides staff training on an ongoing basis. A monthly newsletter is provided to parents.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Mills County Head Start is a wonderful resource for the community. Emily Ray is very enthusiastic and excited about the center. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and nurturing. Children participate in fun educational learning experiences on a daily basis. Emily identified their strengths as consistency and there are positive outcomes for kids and families.

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 a mat in the restrooms 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 not a waste container for diapers that is separate from other waste.

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 10/1/26 to 10/1/28.

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: 10/13/2026

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**.