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

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-Anamosa **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25097

Street: 100 Park Ave **City:** Anamosa Iowa **Zip** 52205 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 105 Broadway Place, Anamosa, IA, 52205

Director's Name: Kelli Hacke **Phone Number:** 319-462-4336

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kelli Hacke **E-Mail:** khacke@hacap.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-28-2024

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: 07-11-2023

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	2	6	31	0	39
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 03-06-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

HACAP Head Start (HHS) - Anamosa is located inside of a commercial building designed for child care. This program operates year-round and includes an early head start classroom as well as head start classrooms. The program serves older infants through preschool-age. Current enrollment is 30.

Multi-site HHS early childhood program director is Christi Regan. Ms. Regan has a BA degree in elementary education with early childhood reading, has been employed with head start for over 20 years, and continues to participate in much child development related training. HHS - Anamosa site specific combined director/on-site supervisor is Kelli Hacke. Ms. Hacke has been the combined director/on-site supervisor since August 2020. Ms. Hacke has a BA degree in elementary education with early childhood endorsement, over 20 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 2/28/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

HACAP is a community action agency currently providing head start services throughout 9 Iowa counties. HACAP began in 1968 serving families in Johnson, Jones, and Linn Counties. From 1973-1981, HACAP expanded to provide services in Benton, Iowa, and Washington Counties. Then, in fall of 2020, HACAP again expanded to provide services in Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties. Specifically, HHS - Anamosa is located in a predominately rural community and has been operating for several years.

HACAP's mission and goal is "...helping people develop skills to become successful and build strong communities..." and "...to bring about a greater degree of social competence in the young children..."

HHS has community support and operates under a Board of Directors. HHS has the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: http://www.hacap.org.

HHS has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS/IQ4K, national accreditation, and local quality initiatives. HHS - Anamosa has achieved QRS 4-Star.

Executive management of HHS has remained consistent. In August 2024, Ms. Hacke will be celebrating 4 consecutive years of being this site's combined director/on-site supervisor. This program's management team (e.g. Ms. Regan, Ms. Hacke) has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a confidential manner. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Since the last review, HHS - Anamosa has retained seasoned employees as well as hired a few new ones. Staff reported celebrating 19 years (with a small break), 7 years, and 3 years of employment with HHS. One staff reported "...working

here with the families has been one of the best things that has happened to me..." The center cook has been with HHS - Anamosa since spring 2021. Staff longevity is impressive! All staff have at least a CDA and/or are working towards a CDA. Many staff have advanced degrees in education and early childhood development. Documentation indicates employees complete annual professional growth training that exceeds Iowa Code requirements.

HHS has a Parent Committee, Policy Council, and bilingual family support workers. There are parent boards with required postings, community resources, and program reminders. There are additional posting areas for community resources in the area of nutrition, upcoming area events, skill building, and community involvement opportunities. Family involvement is highly encouraged including participation in the HHS Parent Committee, home-conference visits and family events.

HHS - Anamosa is located in a building owned and operated by their agency. Building and grounds are maintained. Since the last review, the kitchen received a complete refresh (e.g. new cabinets, new flooring, new appliances) and the outdoor play area was completely refurbished (e.g. new outdoor play equipment, new cushion surfacing, updated loose materials). Classrooms received air purifier systems and new windows. The early head start classroom received a fresh coat of paint. Through local recent grants, the program obtained new carbon monoxide detectors, hands-free refuse containers, thermometers, an outdoor playground climber, and program materials (e.g. math and science, sensory). The program also received a recent large donation of meat. Ms. Hacke talked about future goals including building and outdoor improvements (e.g. sidewalk, shed). HHS does have a maintenance team which assists with building projects and repairs as well as also helps ensure program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. A monthly facility checklist is completed.

HHS participates in an annual all site shutdown week in order to prepare for each new academic year. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. HHS - Anamosa classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Materials are accessible to children. Creative Curriculum is the primary curriculum with online goals for enhancing teaching strategies and a project approach. Additional enrichments have included seasonal gardens with herbs, vegetables and a their own pumpkin patch.

HHS programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. HHS sites have successfully navigated through Linn/Jones County flood events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

HHS collaborates well with many community partners including local area access, local school districts, other early learning programs, local businesses, and health professionals. Ms. Hacke discussed on-site guest speakers (e.g. police pals, local librarian) and walking field trips (e.g. neighboring new police station).

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff were observed warmly greeting children and their families as they arrived for the day. Activities observed included gathering activities, daily routines (e.g. clean-up, breakfast rituals), iterative play (e.g. easel painting, puzzles, sensory pot-of-gold exploring, imaginative play, fossil exploring, musical instrument play with dancing), and circle discussion (e.g. phonics, counting, storybook reading) Staff were actively engaged with the children, providing positive redirection and encouraging social graces. Children appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to ensure diapering procedures are posted in areas diapering occurs.

Some food service dishes (e.g. serving bowls, plates) are showing much ware. Please replace.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.