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

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-North Benton **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25160

Street: 202 E 4th St **City:** Vinton Iowa **Zip** 52349 **County:** Benton

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

Director's Name: Deidra Benser **Phone Number:** 319-472-4761

On-Site Supervisor(s): Deidra Benser **E-Mail:** cregan@hacap.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-12-2023

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: 11-30-2021

Comments : Compliance on 12/07/21

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			36		36
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-27-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/12/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to HACAP Head Start-North Benton in Vinton. I met with Deidra Benser, the director. 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. Lisa Wieck has been hired as a co-lead teacher for the classroom. The other staff members in the classroom are Shannon Galloway and Roni lager. Ms. Galloway is 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. She started with the program in October 2023.

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 ages three through five-years-old. They offer full-time and part-time early learning experiences to the children. There are sixteen children enrolled.

HACAP Head Start-North Benton achieved their National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation.

The program can operate out of two rooms but is currently only using one. The second room is for part time students and they currently only have one part time student enrolled so they have combined the class into one room. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are 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 were 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 and diaper changing procedures were posted.

The program uses the Creative Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears, Mighty Minutes, Pocket of Preschool 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 and nutritional education 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.

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, mental health and dental screenings. The children also receive fluoride varnish applications on their teeth.

The program was selected to be part of the Iowa PBIS "Ready for School" Project. The program selects different communities each year and makes a targeted effort to bring free resources and services for the youngest learners. Free resources they have done Storytime on math and science. They have Head Start Storytime every Wednesday at Vinton Public Library with Ms. Kelli.

The program uses the Class Dojo app to communicate with parents and they love it.

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

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. A radon test was completed in September 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 in the full-time classroom and the part-time classroom. Outlets were covered. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/30/21 with a compliance date of 12/07/21.

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.

Staff members were observed to have great teamwork. They had terrific communication with one another and a great routine for the children. After circle time together, the children are broken into two groups where one group works on social/emotional sequences and the other group does a group activity that goes along with the theme. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. They had children sitting on their laps during circle time. They offered the children choices and were actively engaged in activities. They had fun learning activities for the children. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy themselves at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The children visit the library every Wednesday. They have also taken walking field trips to the fire station and around town. They went to the local hardware store when they did a construction theme.

Ms. Benser states they are going to have center wide PBIS training because of IQ4K for all the Head Start programs. Coaching comes into the program.

Ms. Benser states they incorporate nutrition activities into their program. They do monthly cooking activities with the children. They also do two dental units each month and two safety lessons each month.

Ms. Benser states they are a school bus stop for the preschool children who also attend classes at Tilford Elementary.

Ms. Benser states they have monthly "Family Night" at the program. They have a full board meeting and then do an activity.

Ms. Benser states that Iowa PBS come to the program monthly to do activities and they provide them with different tubs of activities. She showed a large container of science activities and a large container of math activities. In January they are going to do a literacy program.

At the beginning of the year the program uses a water bottle decorated as "Sally Sneezy" to teach the children about covering their coughs and how germs spread.

Ms. Benser states they have applied for IQ4K level 4, but it has not gone through yet because they are working on the tobacco policy. The program does not agree with the expectations expected in the required policy.

Ms. Benser states they participate in the local fall festival and Head Start puts up a stand at the farmer's market.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
As of October, they are fully staffed. They welcomed Rony Slager onto the North Benton Head Start team. She was a sub at the beginning at the school. Due to the part day room only having one child enrolled they have combined both rooms together so the total number of children is 16. They still stick to the 1:8 ratio according to Head Start Performance Standards. With both rooms combined they are fully enrolled and they have two children on a waitlist.

Lisa Wieck and Ms. Benser are co-teaching the classrooms and Ms. Benser has been doing a lot of on-spot coaching for Ms. Wieck with PBIS, DHH and Head Start Performance Standards. IQ4K is ready to for level 4 but waiting on the tobacco policy from corporate and they need the safety inspection.

Benton and Tama County were selected to be part of the Iowa PBIS "Ready for School" Project. The program selects different communities each year and makes a targeted effort to bring free resources and services for the youngest learners. Free resources they have done Storytime on math and science. They have Head Start Storytime every Wednesday at Vinton Public Library with Ms. Kelli.

GOALS:
Recruitment and Community Involvement: They had an open house before school started and have been active in community events in Vinton. The Office of Head Start has been encouraging all programs to be fully enrolled since Covid 19. Ms. Benser is working with local programs like ISU Extension and PBS to do family engagement nights with the families.

Improving Communication with Parents: Parents love the Class Dojo app and they have monthly family engagement events and parent committee meetings. They have a parent rep that sits on the Policy Council for HACAP.

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.