Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Huskies North Preschool

Provider No.: 39619

Address: 1726 N John Wayne Dr, Winterset, IA, 50273

County: Madison

Director's Name: Stephanie Haffner

On-Site Supervisor: Daina McKeever

Phone Number: 5154621208

E-Mail: shaffner@maturaia.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/10/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/30/2023

Comments: State inspections are due every three years per licensing regulations. THE CENTER IS DUE FOR ANOTHER INSPECTION IN 10/2026.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:45 AM to 12:00 PM	
Tuesday		7:45 AM to 12:00 PM	
Wednesday			
Thursday		7:45 AM to 12:00 PM	
Friday		7:45 AM to 12:00 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	0	0	45	0	45
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/10/26. On-site supervisor, Daina McKeever, was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Little Huskies North Preschool used to be called Winterset Head Start and also Pretend Kindergarten. The two programs combined and changed their name in the late Summer/early Fall of 2012. The program is non-profit and owned by Matura Action Corporation. Children served are three to five years of age. Classes are held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday during the school year. Children attend 7:45am - 12:00pm. The program utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teachings. The Gold Assessment is also used. The program uses a main preschool classroom. There is a second classroom that is used sparingly, but mostly just the main classroom is used. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was six children.

The director of this program is Stephanie Haffner. Stephanie has a BA degree in Early Childhood Administration. One on-site supervisor is Daina McKeever. Daina has her CDA and has been with the program for several years. Daina also has a BA degree in education.

NUTRITION: The center has their own kitchen and they provide breakfast and lunch to children. The food menu is posted for the week and all food items met CACFP requirements. The center participates in CACFP. The center also employs a cook. Children eat in their classroom at the child-size tables and chairs. All food storage observed was sufficient.

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TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: It was previously noted that the center usually only take two field trip a school year. Parents are responsible for getting their own child to the field trip destination and/or the program will take the town trolley.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is fenced in and consists of a climbing structure area, grassy area, and concrete area for riding toys. There is a locked shed on the playground for storage of outdoor playground equipment. Rubber mulch is used for surfacing around the fall zones of the climbing structure. The building provides shade. Monthly playground inspections are being documented.

During the inspection, children were observed in their classroom and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. The staff member was walking around and interacting with the different groups of playing children. Good staff redirection of children were observed for two children who appeared to get into a minor disagreement. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more challenging child behaviors, the center focuses on positive redirection and redirection of children. Behavioral plans are utilized as needed that include children, their parents, and staff. Documentation is stressed as is communication between all parties. The center also has built in supports in the form of behavioral specialists, family advocates, etc.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program participates in the food program (CACFP).

A dietitian also reviews all menus/meals.

Staff meetings are held weekly. On-site supervisors of the different Matura Head Start programs meet monthly.

Parents receive a monthly newsletter. There are two parent-teacher conferences a year and two school visits. Parents also received weekly sheets for their child's daily activities. Parents are encouraged to visit the program and participate in their children's activities. The program tries yearly to implement and form a parent committee for the school year.
A family activity set is sent home every weekend. Communication with parents is stressed.

The program has their own website (Matura Action Corporation).

There is a secure entrance into the preschool area of the building. The center has security cameras with video surveillance of the classroom and surrounding building.

The program uses a computer tracking system for child and staff files (Child Plus).

The program utilizes CCR&R, AEA, and other community resources on a regular/as needed basis. The center has established good relationships with other community businesses, including the local library who comes to the center monthly to read to children. A conservation person also visits the center monthly.

The program participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Both on-site supervisors are organized.

The program provides free dental and vision screening for children.

Staff get more than the minimum required annual professional development training.

The program has implemented a "taste experience" where children get to try different type of food throughout the school year.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
One staff person is now past due for recertification in First-Aid/CPR. This is being addressed to get this staff person scheduled for recertification within the next month.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
In the classroom that is used sparingly, there were some products in a lower, unlocked cabinet that were potentially accessible to children. These items need to be stored in another area inaccessible to children or have a lock put on the cabinet.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed 3/21/25 - 3/24/25. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The furnace was last inspected on 4/30/26.

I - Power was again discussed at the visit. Staff should be uploading professional development training as well as Mandatory Reporter, etc. If any staff are no longer with the program, they should be unlinked from the program in I - Power.

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Date: 09/14/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nath Knepper

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**.