

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

Name of Center: East Union Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 65 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 36219

Street: 1916 High School DR **City:** Afton **Iowa Zip:** 50830 **County:** Union

Mailing Address: 1916 High School DR, Afton, IA, 50830

Director's Name: Hope Hall **Phone Number:** 641-347-5790

On-Site Supervisor(s): Donna Allen **E-Mail:** hopehall@eastunionschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-03-2018

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: 03-30-2016

Comments : Make sure your school has complied with the 20 items that needed to be corrected within 15 days of receipt of the 3-30-2016 report.

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General		10	50	18	78
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 04-01-2017 to 04-01-2019
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date: 04-10-2018

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit to East Union Early Childhood Center on 4-3-2018. The program is located in the East Union Community School building. During the school year the program provides preschool and wrap around child care services to preschool age children from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday (program time is 8:15 am to 3:15 pm). During the summer and school breaks i.e. Christmas break and spring break the program provides care to school age children. There are four program rooms. There are sixty five children enrolled. Hope Hall continues to be the Director, she has her Master's Degree in Education. I met with Hope Hall during my visit. Donna Allen is the on-site supervisor. The program has a combination of NAEYC accredited, Empowerment, Shared Visions and Statewide Voluntary programs.

Observation of rooms:

Each room has a lead teacher with a Bachelor's Degrees in teaching and two teachers are working on their Master's Degree.

Jamie Needham's room - 2 1/2 to 3 year old room - This is the youngest preschool room. This room has a diaper changing table.

Miss Hardy's room - three to five year old room.

Miss Clark's room - three to five year old special education room.

Miss Trullinger's room - three to five year old room.

All four rooms look great and have fun and inviting activity centers. All rooms were in ratio. The children were observed plying and having a snack. The rooms have a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The activity centers, equipment/toys are rotated on a frequent basis. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans/activities - the lesson plans looked great. Each room prepares a weekly newsletter for the parents. The center has family fun nights throughout the year.

Each preschool room has gym and music class once a week with the respective elementary school teacher.

Nutrition:

The center is on the federal food program. The school provides lunch and the center provides breakfast and snacks. During the summer the center provides the snacks and they participates in the free breakfast and lunch program. The children eat in their preschool rooms and meals are served family style.

Health and safety:

If a child is prescribed medication the center follows proper medication management procedures.

Radon testing was done in January 2017 and the test scores were in the acceptable range. The program has first aid kits. The center has all electric appliances.

Fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented every month.

The maintenance staff reported that the boiler inspections are current.

The program rooms have a timer for hand washing and brushing teeth.

Playground:

The center has a wonderful nature explore outdoor classroom. They were very excited to become Nature Explore Certified in 2016. The area has a stage, digging, tunnels/tubes, sand box, benches, and a shed. Pea gravel is used for surfacing. The center practices and documents monthly playground inspections. Each room has an exit to the outdoor classroom.

Administrative records:

The center has all of the emergency procedures and the emergency preparedness plan.

Staff meetings are held every other month, on the opposite month Hope meets with the staff individually. Hope meets with lead team members on a weekly basis.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center participates in the Quality Rating System (QRS) and they have a level V. The center looks great and the preschool rooms have wonderful age and developmentally appropriate equipment. The center is using Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold, and the Gold reporting is used in all rooms. The outdoor nature explore classroom is a terrific asset to the program and they truly embrace all it has to offer and want to expand the amount of time spent using the area. They are Nature Explore Certified.

Staff have excellent interactions with the children, they are nurturing, encouraging, have fun with the children and are involved in programming.

Hope is very confident as the director, she is very enthusiastic about the program.

The center uses a phone application called SeeSaw - The parents are tagged to look at their child's photos and the center newsletter in also on this phone application.

Family fun nights are held every other month, and a dinner and an activity are provided. They include a parent education component and have provided information on a variety of topics such as bed time, eating meals together and vocabulary.

New in 2017/2018:

They have fixed a retaining wall and made upgrades to the outdoor environment including adding rubber mulch.

Hope is working on opening an infant/toddler program.

The center has received grants for equipment and supplies. Mats have been ordered for the rooms that are liquid tile mats, STEM play mats of pebbles, rocky terrain, and grass.

The center has received a grant for three family fun nights - music department, art department and Blank Park Zoo and a grant for Block Fest - a company sets up different kinds of blocks.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for East Union Early Childhood Center for 4-1-2017 to 4-1-2019.

Off year licensing visit 4-3-2018.

*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.