Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Creston Head Start

Provider No.: 28283

Address: 1405 N Lincoln, Creston, IA, 50801

County: Union

Director's Name: Stephanie Haffner

On-Site Supervisor: Heidi Hudson

Phone Number: 6417828002

E-Mail: shaffner@maturaia.org

HHS Visit Date: 05/06/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/05/2023

Comments: Fire inspections are due every three years. Please get me an updated fire inspection by 7/5/26.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Tuesday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Wednesday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Thursday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Friday			
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			68		68
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Creston Head Start on 5/6/26. Creston Head Start moved to their new location at 1405 North Lincoln, Creston, Iowa, 50801 on 9/2/25. The program is located in the Greater Connections Child Development Center. Preschool services are provided Monday through Thursday. The three-year-old programs are from 7:45 AM to 11:15 AM or 11:45 AM to 3:15 PM. The four-year-old program is from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There are three programming rooms that are shared with Greater Connections Child Development Center but only two are being utilized. Head Start uses the rooms during the day during the school year and Greater Connections Child Development Center uses the rooms before and after school as well as during the summer. There are 33 children enrolled in the program. I met with staff while in each room.

Observation of rooms:
The lead teacher in the three-year-old room is Heidi Hudson and the lead teacher in the four-year-old room is Lisa Massay. Heidi Hudson is the on-site supervisor. I visited both rooms on my visit. Emergency diagrams were posted in each room. Both displayed the children's art on the walls. The rooms looked great and had a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were having fun participating in circle time in the four-year-old room and then went outside to play. Children were just arriving for the afternoon session in the three-year-old room. The children all washed their hands as they arrived at school and they had table time as they waited for all the children to arrive. Children's art was displayed in both rooms. The staff had excellent interactions with the children; they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Creative Curriculum is used. The lead teacher in each room makes the lesson plans. Each room had lesson plans. Parent teacher conferences are held throughout the year in which goals and progress are discussed. Head Start provides ongoing training for staff and offers support to the staff and families.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Nutrition:
Head Start has a deal with Greater Connections Child Development Center. Head Start buys a percentage of the food. They each have their own cook but the cooks work together to prepare the meals for the children. The four-year-old room receives breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. The three-year-old morning class receives breakfast and morning snack and the afternoon class receives lunch and afternoon snack. Head Start is on the federal food program.

Health and Safety:
The program follows the medication management procedures/medication log when a child is prescribed medication. They have an action plan for a child on an EpiPen. Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. The first aid kit was properly stocked. Radon tests were completed in October 2024 and all radon test results were in the acceptable range. Radon tests are due every five years if the readings are below 4.0 pCi/L. The building has all electrical appliances so no fuel burning inspection is required. A communicable disease posting was posted just outside the room for one of the rooms. The four-year-old room has the children take off their sheets after each nap and put them in a sack. The children then help remake the cots the following day. Each room has a first aid kit in the room and has another traveling first aid kit that goes outside with them. Head Start uses SaniDate, Purell Surface, and Oxivir Tb for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Playground:
Greater Connections Child Development Center has plans to build a Nature Explore Playground by the Summer of 2027. Currently there are three different areas for the children to play. There are shade tarps over each area. There is also a grass area and toys are also taken outside. Fencing has been installed. Monthly playground inspections are completed.

Transportation:
Daily transportation services are not offered.

Administrative records:
Children's files are on Child Plus. Six children's emergency contact information was reviewed in both classrooms. There were two children that did not have emergency contacts listed other than the parents and one did not list anyone other than the parents as to who is allowed to pick up the child. Please go through all files and make sure at least one additional emergency contact is listed and at least one other person besides the parents is able to pick up the child. The children's physical exams, field trip authorizations, and immunization records are kept on Child Plus. Two staff files were reviewed on a previous date and were in excellent order.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Head Start is a wonderful resource for the community. Staff were very friendly and helpful. The program receives grants for equipment and supplies. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. Stephanie identified the strengths of the program as staff longevity for lead teachers, the families receive comprehensive services for the entire household, and there is in-school therapy in partnership with Rosecrance. Head Start is preparing to submit their paperwork for IQ4K level 4.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 3/1/26 to 3/1/28.

I discussed with Stephanie Haffner her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Every year they do fall orientation and behavior management strategies. Through the year they do personal development if it is offered. AEA is involved and the center reaches out if they need additional resources. Stephanie does classroom assessments. There are Teams meetings every 4-6

weeks and they discuss behavioral management and children with more challenging behaviors.

Date: 05/11/2026

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**.