Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sioux Center EHS Toddler Center

Provider No.: 44853

Address: 1070 7th Ave NE, Sioux Center, IA, 51250

County: Sioux

Director's Name: Kendra Rensink

On-Site Supervisor: Lauren Shear

Phone Number: 7127222473

E-Mail: scehstc@midsioux.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/24/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/09/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM		
Tuesday	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM		
Wednesday	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM		
Thursday	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM		
Friday	8:30 AM to 1:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		8			8
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at Sioux Center Early Head Start on February 24, 2026. Upon arrival, I was greeted by Jamilyn Top, the lead teacher in the classroom. I Lauren Shear is the onsite supervisor and was not available during the visit. Ms. Shear has many years of experience working with children in this age group and demonstrated familiarity with program operations and daily routines. Kendra Rensink serves as the director overseeing multiple Head Start sites.

Sioux Center Early Head Start is located within the Appletree Early Childhood Center and operates Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, and Friday from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The Early Head Start program is year-round, including summer months, to promote consistency for children. The program closes for one week in August. This location specifically serves children ages 18 months to 36 months. There are eight enrolled children, with five present during the time of the visit.

All program areas were observed, including classroom environments, children’s activities, health and safety practices, transportation procedures, and administrative records. A daily schedule was posted. The classroom was organized and developmentally appropriate, with learning materials displayed at children’s eye level. Colors, shapes, the five senses, children’s artwork, and the alphabet were posted throughout the room. I observed a story time activity that included the use of puppets, and the children remained highly engaged and able to follow along. Staff interactions with children were positive, attentive, and supportive.

Sanitation practices were appropriate. Staff assisted children during bathroom breaks, and proper handwashing routines were followed. Children brush their teeth daily following breakfast. All meals are prepared by Appletree Early Childhood Center and brought into the classroom. Meals meet CACFP guidelines, and menus were posted. The kitchen area where

meals are prepared is inaccessible to children.

Medication is stored either in a locked box or out of the reach of children. The first aid kit available in the classroom was sufficiently stocked to address minor injuries. Monthly fire and tornado drills were documented. Annual heating inspections have been completed. A radon test has been conducted, and results were within the normal range. A functioning carbon monoxide detector is present.

The facility, including all classroom and program areas, was clean, organized, and well maintained. Health and safety procedures were clearly established and implemented. The outdoor playground is fenced and located close to the building. The playground equipment is surrounded by poured rubber surfacing material. Monthly playground inspections were complete. The program also has access to an indoor multipurpose room used as an indoor play space, shared with the daycare center.
The program does not participate in off-site field trips. Instead, community activities and presentations are brought into the center. Children are transported to and from home by the school district or the regional transit system. The classroom has several windows that provide natural light. Visual supports, including pictures and written words, were displayed in both English and Spanish to support dual-language learners and family engagement.

The center uses High Scope curriculum, which is a research-based, active learning curriculum emphasizing hands-on exploration, problem-solving, and child decision-making. Teachers support learning by structuring the environment, engaging in meaningful interactions, and using a consistent daily routine that allows children to plan, carry out, and review their activities. High Scope promotes cognitive, social-emotional, physical, and language development through intentional experiences designed for young children. The program also uses Teaching Strategies GOLD as its assessment tool. GOLD is an ongoing, observation-based assessment system aligned with early learning standards. It allows staff to document each child's development in areas such as social-emotional skills, physical development, language, cognitive skills, and emerging literacy and math. Assessment information is used to individualize instruction and communicate progress with families.

Staff were engaged, the environment was safe and supportive, and health and safety practices were well implemented. I also observed appropriate discipline techniques, including the use of redirection and demonstration.

Goals of this program is to continue to increase their level of IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center participates in Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System, IQ4K, and is currently rated at Level 3 out of 5. This rating indicates that the program is operating above basic licensing requirements and has implemented a wide range of quality practices across multiple areas of early childhood programming. To achieve Level 3, the program must meet all standards in the first three levels of IQ4K, which include enhanced expectations in nutrition and physical activity, staff training, family engagement, environmental quality, curriculum and assessment practices, and program leadership. A Level 3 rating reflects that the program provides structured professional development for staff, engages families and the community through planned activities, maintains inclusive teaching practices, and supports learning with a research-based curriculum and assessment system. The program's leadership also demonstrates experience and training consistent with higher-tier quality standards. This level of achievement shows the program's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and high-quality care for young children.

This program is licensed for a capacity of eight children, which allows for a high level of staff-to-child interaction and provides opportunities for individualized attention and support throughout the day

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs. Any food item that has been opened needs to be stored in a Ziploc or container with a date.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 02/24/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.