Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Eagle Grove Head Start

Provider No.: 50856

Address: 121 N Iowa Ave, Eagle Grove, IA, 50533

County: Wright

Director's Name: Michelle Carden

On-Site Supervisor: Gavin Wilson

Phone Number: 5156036116

E-Mail: mcarden@yourhs-ehs.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/08/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/15/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			22		22
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Eagle Grove Head Start program on 10-08-25, and again on 10-13-25 as the children were not present on the day of the first visit. I met with Lead Teacher Gavin Wilson on both days reviewing files and the physical facilities on the first, and observing the program in operation on the second. Gavin took over the lead teacher position at the start of the 2025 school year. The center is one of several locations overseen by Your Own United Resources Head Start program with Michelle Carden as the executive director. Michelle and Gavin are both well qualified for the the positions based on their experience, formal education, and on-going professional development. The program is located in a free standing building in Eagle Grove. The center provides preschool programming only serving children 3-4 years of age. There are currently 8 children enrolled in the program served by 2 teachers and a cook. All aspects of the program subject to DHS Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classroom remains the same as in prior visits. The building has a large open classroom space with restrooms located off the main programming area, a kitchen, storage, and office space. There were no issues noted with regard to construction or maintenance. In addition to the main entry there is a secondary exit providing direct access to the playground that serves as an emergency exit. The exits from the building were maintained to be clear of obstruction and playground fence gates had the padlocks removed.
Restrooms are located directly accessible from the classroom, and also serve as emergency tornado shelter. Sinks are located in the restrooms and also directly accessible from the classroom programming space. Mixer units have been installed to prevent scalding on the sinks in the classroom space which are the ones primarily used by the children. It was noted that the sink in one restroom where a changing station was located did have a notice to monitor hot water temperatures. When measured the temperature was below the maximum allowed limit of 120 deg. F. but having a reminder to monitor temperatures is an excellent best practice policy. Windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged so as to not create any blind areas and provide the children with ample room to move and play. The toys and materials were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed during the visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children throughout the visit. This included providing direct care activities such as presenting the planned curriculum, assisting children with meals and toileting, and indirect care such as when the children were engaged in self-directed play. The center uses a formal curriculum that identifies a general learning focus theme as well as specific learning concepts of numbers and letters. As an

example the focus theme on the day of the first visit was Buildings and the materials present in the classroom did reflect that. During the teachers followed the planned curriculum and schedule moving from indoor activities, to outdoor play, and lunch in both teacher lead group activities and child directed play. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers making use of positive support methods of making Green/Red choices, recognizing positive behaviors, review expectations, and helping the children with guided problem solving. The teachers did have a strong focus on positive social interactions and safety, and helping the children identify positive alternatives. All of the teachers used calm tones and positive word choices when speaking with the children.

Good health and safety practices were observed with the teacher ensuring that the children washed their hands and did so in an effective manner. This included not only for times when required such as after restroom use and prior to meal service, but also at other times such as when a child was digging in their ear with a finger during lunch. Good practices were observed with one teacher helping a child with a standing diaper change during the visit. Tables were sanitized both before and after meal service with the staff waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. The center does maintain a first aid kit which is located in an area where it was readily available but not accessible to the children. The kit was observed to have a good supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Items that can pose a safety risk to children were stored where children did not have access. The center makes use of sleeping mats during nap time and while families did provide blankets for the children to choose from cover sheets or other appropriate bedding that can be placed on the mats was not represent as required.

The center does have a playground with a climbing structure and other activity centers. The climbing structure was observed to be in good repair.
Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing. An awning is present to provide a shaded play area. The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing which was in good repair. Additional toys and materials are available for the children to play with.

The center has full kitchen facilities and again the kitchen remains the same as observed in the past. All meals and snacks are prepared on site. Menus were present and identified a good variety of nutritious food options. The meal served on the day of my visit included Spanish Rice, corn, canned fruit, milk, and an ice cream cup. Good food storage practices were observed with all food items placed in air tight sealable food grade containers. Thermometers were present in refrigeration and freezer units to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. Meals are served family style with the children serving themselves, and they also assist in clearing their plates. The teachers did sit and eat with the children to model and encourage good eating habits.

All required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were present and in an area readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, diapering, handwashing, curriculum, and daily schedule were also posted as required. Child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Staff files are reviewed during an annual review at the program main office and any concerns are addressed at that time. All required inspection logs and certificates were current and available. The program is also accredited by NAEYC which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions:Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff.Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap.Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing must be maintained.The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing.
-- Sleeping mats used for napping did not have cover sheets or other bedding which could be removed and laundered as necessary. Parents do provide blankets for children to used when napping and one option that could be implemented is to have parents provide a second blanket which could be used as a mat covering.

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

The center will explore options for mat covers.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/24/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.