Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Hippity Hop Preschool

Provider No.: 18220

Address: 404 N Pine St, West Union, IA, 52175

County: Fayette

Director's Name: Tami Vagts

On-Site Supervisor: Tami Vagts

Phone Number: 5633806089

E-Mail: ctvagts@hotmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/22/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/06/2025

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	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/22/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Hippity Hop Preschool in West Union. I met with Tami Vagts, the director, owner and co-lead teacher. Ms. Vagts started Hippity Hop Preschool in 1987, but the preschool was not licensed through the Department of Human Services until 2004. Ms. Vagts has a diploma in early childhood development from NICC in Calmar and she is a NAEYC member. Kathleen Bonjour is the primary lead teacher for the statewide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. She has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. Amber Keller is the assistant in the classroom Monday through Friday. She started with the program in August 2025.

The program operates out of a classroom in Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center. This program only operates during the school year. The program operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 am until 3:15 pm. On Wednesday the program operates from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The program partners with the North Fayette Community School District to provide the voluntary preschool program through the statewide grant and this program operates on Monday and Wednesday. Children can arrive as early as 7:40 am. There are currently 20 children enrolled.

An inspection of the classroom was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is one primary center based on the current theme and they incorporate activities based on theme in other centers as well. There are pictures of the children's families. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Ipads, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, playdough, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

The Creative Curriculum is used to develop lesson plans and GOLD assessments are completed. They use Heggerty's Phonemic Awareness, Jolly Phonics, Alphatales, Handwriting Without Tears, and journals to assist the children in learning. Ms. Bonjour develops the lesson plans on Monday and Wednesday and Ms. Vagts develops lesson plans Tuesday , Thursday and Friday. They maintain the same theme all week. Activities are planned around the theme. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest level. The program also participates in the Farm to Preschool program. There is a NEC projector in the room. Hippity Hop Preschool follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). They partner with Keystone AEA to provide services to students with identified needs.

There is a phone in the classroom. The emergency numbers and the preschool's address and phone number are posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams are posted by the main program door and outdoor exit. A

daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in February 2025 and is only good for two years because the building does have a radon mitigation system. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway of the childcare center near the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/06/25.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The children receive lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Lunch is prepared by North Fayette Valley School and delivered to the program. Parents pay a lunch fee. Children eat in the classroom and are served their lunch on trays. Parents provide the morning and afternoon snack. The program provides parents with healthy snack options. Parents pay a milk fee for snacks. Lunch menus were posted. Snacks are documented on a calendar. There is a refrigerator in the storage room and a thermometer was present. Dishes are washed using the dishwashers in the childcare kitchen.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

There are two bathrooms in the classroom. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. There are two sinks in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

Mats are used to nap and they were stored appropriately.

The preschool uses the childcare center playground. The playground has a fenced in area and uses woodchips for fall surface cushioning. The area has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, playhouses, dramatic play items and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. There is a tree for shade. Ms. Vagts states they leave the gate open between the preschool and school-age playgrounds so the children have more space to run on the grass. They can begin using the play equipment in the school-age area once they turn five years old. The children look forward to this.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. An updated contact poster was emailed to Ms. Vagts with the new HHS website.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

I visited the program on a day when the voluntary four year old program was in session. Ms. Bonjour was fun to watch as a teacher. She is verry engaged with the students. She was expressive while reading a book about feelings to the children. She included the children in the story and allowed them all to share their feelings and thoughts. Ms. Vagts and Ms. Keller sat on the rug with the children during the story. They had children on their laps and helped maintain order. Ms. Bonjour provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. Children colored faces on pumpkins for one craft and then worked on their cutting and gluing skills by making pumpkins that opened to show pulp. Staff members kept the children entertained. They sang with the children and did exercises with the children. Staff members had terrific teamwork and complimented one another's skills. They knew where to step in to assist instinctively. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to be having fun in the program.

Ms. Vagts states she created and has been the preschool teacher for Hippity Hop Preschool for 37 years.

The program partners with the North Fayette Community School District to provide children voluntary preschool services through the statewide grant.

Ms. Vagts states their children can ride the North Fayette Valley bus to and from school.

The program has a good working relationship with the daycare program they share the building with.

The program has a long history in the community and parents continue to enjoy sending their children to Ms. Vagt's

preschool program.

The program has a working relationship with Keystone AEA to help meet the needs of children with special needs.

Ms. Vagts states they maintain good communication with the parents and they have parent/teacher conferences.

The preschool program offers the children field trips every month of the school year except for December when they have a Christmas program. They use a school bus for transportation. They visit the fire station, pumpkin patch, an apple orchard, they are going to a play at Luther College. In addition to visiting locations the library visits twice each month and the children can check out books. Gilbertson Nature Center also visits the center once each month.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no citations.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I met with Ms. Vagts following my observations. The program had a terrific visit and there were no citations.

Date: 10/29/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.