Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Hawks Nest (Woodward-Granger CSD)

Provider No.: 38066

Address: 2200 State Street, Granger, IA, 50109

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Jill Vermaas

On-Site Supervisor: Shelby Forristall

Phone Number: 5159992287

E-Mail: jillvermaas@wghawks.school

HHS Visit Date: 01/22/2026

Licensing Period: 02/02/2026 to 02/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/06/2025

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
Summer					0
General	0	0	0	388	388

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 1/22/26. The director was present throughout the visit and the on-site supervisor for a portion of the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Hawks Nest is a center in Granger, IA that was given permission to open under HHS (formerly known as DHS) supervision on 8/24/15. The center serves children ages three through 12 years of age from the Woodward-Granger school district. During the school year, programming for school-age children is 6:30am - 8:00am and 3:30pm - 6:00pm (for early out days, operation hours are 2:15pm - 6:00pm). There is all day programming for three/four year old children (wrap around care after pre-school dismisses). During the summer months, the program is open 6:30am - 6:00pm. The center uses their own learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums. The program has permission to operate in both school buildings however, for the past several years, only the older school building is being used. The center uses two classrooms, the gym, and the cafeteria in the older building. When the newer building is being used, the center can utilize the gym and the cafeteria. Total child enrollment at this time is 164 children.

The center is overseen by a Board. The director is Jill Vermaas. Jill has many years' worth of experience working in child care as well as in the school setting. Jill has completed a number of professional development courses in addition to her experience. The on-site supervisor is Shelby Forristall. Shelby meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

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During the inspection, children were observed in both classrooms and in the gym. In the classrooms, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. In the gym, children were engaged in large motor activities. Staff were interacting with children. Children gave specific examples of when they wash their hands and also where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills. Toys and other equipment are being sanitized daily as required.

NUTRITION: During the school year, the school provides breakfast and lunch to children. The center serves an AM snack and a PM snack to children. During the summer months and No School days, the centers serves breakfast (optional for children), AM snack, lunch, and PM snack. No issues were noted with the menus or food storage. The times between AM snack and lunch needs to be moved five minutes later for lunch serving.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school district for a bus and a bus driver during the summer months for field trips. Field trips are generally taken only during the summer months, but may also be taken during breaks throughout the school-year.

PLAYGROUND: The center utilizes the school playground areas. There are climbing structures and surfacing is poured in place rubber. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The center offers services for younger children within the school district (wrap-around and drop-in care).

The director continues to believe that she has a good group of staff working for her. The director first tries to hire from within the school and then the community for those with knowledge of the school/community.

There is a good mix of tenured and newer staff.

The center has a website through the school district as well as a Facebook page.

The center has good working relationships with members of the community.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

With the program all being in one building, there is a better flow to the overall programming/structure.

Staff and children files were nicely organized.

Since the last inspection on 1/21/25, the center has purchased a new refrigerator and new poured in place rubber was installed on the playground.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

No below standards were identified at this year's inspection.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Radon testing is needed in the classrooms serving preschool children. Radon testing was last completed 2/20/23 - 2/24/23. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The last HVAC inspection on file was from 1/22/25. Per the director, maintenance stated an inspection was done again on 1/6/26, they are just awaiting the report.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

Date: 01/22/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.