Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-Anamosa **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25097

Street: 100 Park Ave **City:** Anamosa Iowa **Zip** 52205 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 105 Broadway Place, Anamosa, IA, 52205

Director's Name: Kelli Hacke **Phone Number:** 319-462-4336

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kelli Hacke **E-Mail:** khacke@hacap.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-19-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 07-11-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	8	16	0	32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 03-05-2025

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

HACAP Head Start (HHS) - Anamosa has been in operation for several years. HHS - Anamosa operates year-round and includes both early head start and head start classrooms. The program serves older infants through preschool-age. Current enrollment is 32.

Multi-site HHS early childhood program executive director is Christi Regan. Ms. Regan has a BA degree in elementary education with early childhood reading, has been employed with head start for over 20 years, and continues to participate in much child development related training. HHS - Anamosa's site specific combined director/on-site supervisor is Kelli Hacke. Ms. Hacke has been the combined director/on-site supervisor since August 2020. Ms. Hacke has a BA degree in elementary education with early childhood endorsement, over 20 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 2/19/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

HACAP is a community action agency currently providing head start services throughout 9 Iowa counties. HACAP began in 1968 serving families in Johnson, Jones, and Linn Counties. From 1973-1981, HACAP expanded to provide services in Benton, Iowa, and Washington Counties. Then, in fall of 2020, HACAP again expanded to provide services in Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties. Specifically, HHS - Anamosa is located in a predominately rural community and has been operating for several years.

HACAP's mission and goal is "...helping people develop skills to become successful and build strong communities..." and "...to bring about a greater degree of social competence in the young children..."

HHS has community support and operates under a Board of Directors. HHS has the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: http://www.hacap.org.

HHS has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS/IQ4K, national accreditation, and local quality initiatives.

Executive management of HHS has remained consistent. This program's management team (e.g. Ms. Regan, Ms. Hacke) has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a confidential manner. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. In August 2025, Ms. Hacke will be celebrating 5 consecutive years of being this site's combined director/on-site supervisor. Congratulations!

HHS - Anamosa has retained many seasoned employees as well as hired a few new ones. Staff reported celebrating 10 years, 3 years and 1 year with HHS. The center cook has been with HHS - Anamosa since spring 2021. All staff have at

least a CDA and/or are working towards a CDA. Many staff have advanced degrees in education and early childhood development. Documentation indicates that employees often complete annual professional growth training that exceeds Iowa Code requirements. Ms. Hacke acknowledged having a "...good team of staff..."

HHS has a Parent Committee, Policy Council, and bilingual family support workers. There are parent boards with required postings, community resources, and program reminders. There are additional posting areas for community resources in the area of nutrition, upcoming area events, skill building, and community involvement opportunities. Family involvement is highly encouraged including participation in the HHS Parent Committee, home-conference visits and family events.

HHS - Anamosa is located in a building owned and operated by their agency. Building and grounds are maintained. In 2023, the kitchen received a complete refresh (e.g. new cabinets, new flooring, new appliances) and the outdoor play area was completely refurbished (e.g. new outdoor play equipment, new cushion surfacing, updated loose materials). Classrooms have air purifier systems and newer windows. Since the last review, the program replaced trash receptacles. HHS does have a maintenance team which assists with building projects and repairs as well as also helps ensure program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. A monthly facility checklist is completed.

Classrooms continued to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Furnishings and materials are child friendly and in good repair. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, milestone handprint caterpillar Eric Carle work, Every Child is an Artist display) were observed to be displayed in several areas of the building. Creative Curriculum is the primary curriculum with goals to move online for enhancing teaching strategies and project approach. Curriculum also incorporates guest speaker events (e.g. community guest readers, police pal). HHS participates in an annual all site shutdown timeframe in order to prepare for each new academic year (e.g. project building maintenance, classroom cleaning/preparation, professional development).

HHS programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. HHS sites have successfully navigated through Linn/Jones County flood events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

HHS - Anamosa collaborates well with many community partners including local area access, local school districts, local businesses, CCR&R and health professionals. There is also a partnership among all HHS sites that allows for the sharing of staff training, ideas and resources.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. HHS has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included dinosaurs. The aroma of lunchtime preparations including Southwest lasagna was being enjoyed throughout the center. Children had access to an array of materials that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many (e.g. center play experiences, music with movement, finger plays, small group book reading, group game of musical chairs). Center play experiences included dinos with dirt, lacing work, habitat building, dinos with sand, making dino tracks in paint, dress-up, restaurant-shop imaginative play, baby doll cares and fossil dig Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Staff were observed communicating with children verbally, using picture cues, and through sign language. Routine transitions (e.g. restroom breaks, clean-up, water breaks) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard engaging with children in meaningful discussion (Great water break conversation was overheard in the 2-3yo room!), encouraging social graces, and using positive redirection when needed (Very smooth way of helping children problem solve sharing in the older head start classroom!). Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please repair areas of chipping paint and the cabinet that came loose in the early head start classroom.

Remove diapering pads from diapering surfaces. A non-porous surface is best for cleaning and disinfecting.

The program's license remains in full force. Thank you for the visit.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.