Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Husky Childcare Preschool

Provider No.: 19258

Address: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F, Oelwein, IA, 50662

County: Fayette

Director's Name: Ashley Schwartz

On-Site Supervisor: Ashley Schwartz

Phone Number: 3192832302

E-Mail: aschwartz@oelwein.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 07/06/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/20/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	43	27	49	50	169
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 07/06/26 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Little Husky Childcare and Preschool in Oelwein. I met with Ashley Schwartz, the director. Ms. Schwartz became the director in September 2024. Ms. Schwartz has worked at the center as an office manager since 2020 and previously worked at the center as a childcare provider for two years. Ms. Schwartz has received her National Administrator Credential (NAC). Taylor Miller is an office assistant and she is in charge when Ms. Schwartz is away. Ms. Schwarts has a degree in early childhood education and she is the three year old preschool teacher. She started with the center in October 2024. There are 13 staff members employed by the center.

The center operates out of the same building as Oelwein Elementary and the NEICAC Head Start Program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. The three-year-old preschool program operates Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:45 am until 11:30 am. The voluntary four-year-old preschool program is regulated under the Department of Education, not HHS. The childcare center serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 73 children enrolled.

The childcare center operates out of the following classrooms: Sprouts (birth until they walk), Pea Wees (approximately 12-24 months old), Climbers (two-year-olds), Travelers (three through five-year-olds), and Husky Care (school-aged children) The Husky Care room is also the three-year-old preschool classroom. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in all the rooms. The rooms are 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. The children's birthdays are posted. There are areas for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, play dough, woodworking, sensory table, puppets, 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.

There is a resource shelf for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

There are cameras in each room so that the director can monitor the rooms for safety, staff interaction, and compliance with licensing standards.

The program currently uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review in each room. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

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There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

The radon test was completed in June 2023 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection or carbon monoxide detector. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/20/26.

The center uses the Playground app to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two years old and to communicate with all the families. They also use the app for parent to sign in and sign out and billing.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. All food is prepared on site by the Oelwein school district cook. They make a new menu each month and provide it to the center. The children are served their meals and snacks by the teachers in the classroom except for the school age children who eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. The school age children eat snack in the classroom. The school age children go through the line cafeteria style and are given their meals on trays by the kitchen staff. Staff members eat with the children to model appropriate behavior and assist as necessary.

The center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. The bottles are rinsed in the room and sent to the kitchen to be sanitized. There is a refrigerator in the Sprouts room (infants) and the Climbers room (two year olds) and thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and to disinfect the changing tables. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted in all mandated areas.

I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members. Poper procedures ae followed.

Cribs are used for the infants and cots are used for children one year old and older.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the entrance. 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.

The school and Head Start partnered to develop the Big Playground. The playground is used by preschool and school-aged children. It is a large fenced in area with several choices for the children. They use a synthetic turf specifically made for playgrounds with a cushioning material. There is a concreate path and real grass for the children also. There are several pieces of climbing equipment that include activities like slides, climbing walls and still rings. There are different types of swings and steppingstones for balance. There is an obstacle course. There is a playhouse with a tunnel and a play doctor office and fire department area. They have a basketball hoop, music center and there are several games painted directly on the turf, such as tic tac toe, hopscotch, four square and a bullseye.

On the north side of the childcare center a new playground has been developed for the younger children referred to as Play Village. It also uses turf for fall surfacing. There is no climbing equipment. There are pushing toys, riding toys and multiple playhouses. There are artificial hills and tunnels for the children. There is a dramatic play center and woodworking center. There is a storage container with several activities, including balls, transportation, etc.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members had great interaction with the children. I observed staff members provide the children with good bathroom and handwashing reminders. They assisted as needed. Staff members were patient and flexible with their schedules based upon the children's needs and interests. They talked with the children about using their words and sharing to solve problems. They actively engaged with the children in an enthusiastic manner. Staff members modeled good manners. Staff members provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. They introduced them to learning activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. One lead teacher

talked about doing more “hands-on” crafts with the children so they have new experiences. Staff members are teaching some sign language to the younger children to communicate. In the infant room staff members were nurturing and attentive. They had good knowledge of the children’s routines. They worked on tummy time. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

The center has an IQ4K level of 2 that expires on 04/30/28. Ms. Schwartz states they plan to go for a level 3.

The center is in the school. It is in a secure building and there are cameras in the classrooms. The school has cameras on the playground.

Ms. Schwartz states the lead teacher positions are strong. They work on art/crafts, they stay on top of the paperwork and lesson plans.

Ms. Schwartz states the lead staff members have good longevity.

Ms. Miller is the lead three year old preschool teacher. She has an early childhood degree. Ms. Schwartz states Ms. Miller is a good administrative assistant and helps her a lot.

Ms. Schwartz states the staff members are open to new ideas and ask for new ideas and resources for the classroom.

Ms. Schwartz states the center works with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There are 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 HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Schwartz her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Schwartz states she has had meetings with staff members and they discuss using redirection with children. After using redirection three times they can have the children take a break based on their age. Ms. Schwartz states she tells staff members they only use their hands to guide the children and never to grab. Ms. Schwartz states they have staff meetings and they tell staff members to call her or Ms. Miller for help and they will step in so the staff member can take a break. Staff members will also bring children to the office if they need a break.

Ms. Schwartz states she monitors the situation by communicating with staff members and by having staff members write behavior reports if children are acting out. Administration must approve the behavior reports. Ms. Schwartz states they have cameras in the classrooms and she can monitor classrooms. Right now, she uses an Ipad or her phone but she has a ticket in with IT so she can use a larger monitor to watch the rooms.

Date: 07/08/2026

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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**.