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

Name of Center: Southwest Valley Schools Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 48 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50838

Street: 1012 10th St **City:** Corning Iowa **Zip** 50841 **County:** Adams

Mailing Address: 1012 10th St, Corning , IA, 50841

Director's Name: Emily Riedel **Phone Number:** 641-322-4601

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mikalah Sonntag **E-Mail:** eriedel@southwestvalley.org jlyddon@southwestva

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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: 07-19-2023

Comments : Plan of correction 8-17-2023.

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	16	19	21	21	77
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff **Date:** 08-25-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Southwest Valley Schools Early Childhood Center on 2-5-2025. This center opened under new ownership on 1-1-2020. The center was previously Hearts & Hugs Daycare and Preschool.
The center provides child care services to infant age children to school age children. There are 48 children enrolled.
Corning Head is located in the building on the main floor.
Emily Riedel is the director, Mikalah Sonntag is the on-site supervisor. Mr. Fenster is the school superintendent.
Staff are employed by the school district. I met with the director Emily Riedel during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys that are rotated frequently.
Infant room - three children were with Emily during my licensing visit. Emily has been in ratio frequently due to staff illnesses. The daily sheets looked good, they are on the Playground child care app. There were a couple of boppy pillows in the room, I told Emily that boppy pillows shouldn't be used in child care as they are a health and safety hazard and the intent for them is for nursing mothers. Emily said she would remove the boppy pillows from the center.

Toddler/Preschool room - one side of the room is the Toddler room.
The toddler room had six children and one staff present. The room had a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were having fun playing. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Lesson plans/activities were completed.

The school age children use the Head Start room in the afternoons, the school age children were at school during my visit.

Nutrition:
The school prepares breakfast and lunch and the center provides the snack. The kitchen is nice, clean and has plenty of storage. Menus were posted.

Health and Safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented.
Since your program is run by the school the Department of Education is responsible for maintaining radon testing. Test results must be under a 4.0 pCi/L.
Staff reported that the building is all electric.
Oxivir is used for sanitizing and disinfecting, they have the three step bottle procedure for both sanitizing and disinfecting. 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. (3 separate bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting are needed).

Playground:
The center has a playground with two pieces of equipment, four swings and padded surfacing. A driveway for deliveries was added.
Monthly playground inspections are completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Staff meetings are held and Emily maintains daily contact with the staff.
The center will be moving to the elementary school in July/August 2025. They will have four program rooms.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Emily is confident as the director and she has done a great job learning the licensing regulations.
Your center is a wonderful resource for the community.
Staff had excellent interactions with the children.

The center participates in IQ4K1.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 1-1-2024 to 1-1-2026.
Off year licensing visit 2-5-2025.

The center will be moving to the elementary school in July/August 2025. They will have four program rooms.

On 8/15/25, Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center moved to their new location at 1012 10th Street, Corning, Iowa 50841.

On 8/15/25, Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center’s capacity increased to 77.

*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.