Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mills County Head Start

Provider No.: 52700

Address: 58962 380th Street, Hastings, IA, 51540

County: Mills

Director's Name: Danni Segebart

On-Site Supervisor: Michaela Baratta

Phone Number: 7127557537

E-Mail: dsegebart@westcca.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/12/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/16/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] 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			16		16
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Mills County Head Start on 11/12/25. This a new center that opened on 10/31/24. The center is located in the old East Mills school in Hastings, Iowa. Services are offered to children three to five years old. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:15 AM to 3:15 PM and Wednesday 8:15 AM to 12:30 PM during the school year. Danni Segebart is the director and Michaela Baratta is the lead teacher. I met with Michaela during my licensing visit. Eleven children are enrolled.

Observation of room:
The programming room looks great and has a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The room is arranged with fun activity centers. The children were doing small and large group activities. Three staff were present during my licensing visit. The children were having fun playing in the activity centers. The staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive, nurturing, and having fun with the children. They have lesson plans/activities. There is a bathroom in the programming room with two toilets and two sinks at the counter. Teaching Strategies Gold is used for the creative curriculum program. Learning Genie is used for communication with parents. The children use a rope to guide them every time they leave the room. They teach life skills including brushing their teeth after breakfast, sweeping, and folding sheets.

Nutrition:
Treat America/Company Kitchen delivers the meals every day. Menus are posted. Thermometers are used. No outside food is allowed due to allergies. If parents want to come eat with their children, they are able to if it is scheduled in advance. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. Staff will follow medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication and they have the medication log. Two children are on rescue inhalers and the inhalers are kept in the backpack. It was reported that the building has all electrical appliances. Radon testing was completed in October 2025 and was in the acceptable range. Sheets are washed weekly. Bleach water is used. It is mixed first thing every morning. Please use 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 products for sanitizing and disinfecting. Please refer to the specific bottle of bleach you are using for mixing instructions for sanitizing and disinfecting. If the mixing instructions aren't on the label, please refer to the website on the bottle for mixing instructions. Bleach/water needs to be mixed daily.

Playground:
There is a nice playground with two climbing structures. They had tricycles, a water table, and sensory table. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing. There is also an indoor gym. Monthly playground inspections are being completed.

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Transportation:
The SWITA (Southwest Iowa Transit Agency) bus provides pick-up and drop-off locations in Glenwood and Malvern.

Administrative records:
The children's files have emergency contact information for family, pick-up information, and doctor and dentist information. Please make sure the dentist's contact information, including phone number, is provided. Staff files were read on previous date and were in excellent order. Head Start provides staff training on an ongoing basis. A monthly newsletter is provided to parents.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Mills County Head Start is a wonderful resource for the community. Michaela Baratta is very enthusiastic and excited about the new center. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and nurturing. Children participate in fun educational learning experiences on a daily basis.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 10-1-2024 to 10-1-2026.

109.9(2)d: One of the children's files did not have the contact information for the dentist. Please make sure all information is current, including the dentist's phone number.

Date: 11/18/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.