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

Name of Center: The Hawks Nest (Woodward-Granger CSD) **Enrollment:** 137 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38066

Street: 2200 State Street **City:** Granger Iowa **Zip** 50109 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 2200 State St, Granger, IA, 50109

Director's Name: Jill Vermaas **Phone Number:** 515-999-2287

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shelby Forristal **E-Mail:** jillvermaas@wghawks.school

Date(s) of Visit: 01-24-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-02-2021

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

Date Inspected: 11-04-2022

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

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	0	0	0	388	388
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-25-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 1/24/23. The director was present throughout the visit. The on-site supervisor was present at the end 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 most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

The Hawks Nest is a center in Granger, IA that was given permission to open under 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 (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 is located in both school buildings however, for the past two or three 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.

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 Forristal. Shelby meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, younger children were observed in the large clasroom. Children were using and playing with the different learning stations set up in the classroom. Some school-age children were in the gym with their staff. A third group of children were in the smaller classroom and observed reading and doing art projects. Staff were engaged with children in all areas.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment remains steady.

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 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 again, as stated last year, there seems to be a better flow to the overall programming/structure.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1 staff member who is a minor needs to have the parent permission form signed and be fingerprinted.

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.
Bolts along the fence of the enclosed climbing structure are area need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are exposed on bolts.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.
If regular bleach and water is used as a sanitizer/disinfectant, it has to be prepared daily and then anything not used, dumped at the end of the day.

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
The time between AM snack and lunch needs to be increased so that there are at least two hours in-between these meals.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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 during the summer months, but may also be taken during breaks throughout the school-year.

It was previously noted that the school provides breakfast and lunch to children.

Radon testing is needed every two years in the classrooms serving preschool children. Radon testing was last completed 1/8/21 - 1/11/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. In the future, the smaller room used by preschool children should also be tested in addition to the larger classroom. RADON TESTING IS DUE AGAIN NOW.

The boiler was last inspected per school maintenance on 1/19/23. The inspection form/invoice is needed by the director.

There are functioning carbon monoxide detectors.

Information on the new fingerprinting process was provided to the director after the visit concluded.

A food allergy action plan was provided to the director after the visit concluded. There is one child who has an epipen, but only attends during the summer months. This epipen will also expire the end of 8/2023.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at 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.