Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Early EDGE

Provider No.: 52262

Address: 1550 Hawkeye Drive, Hiawatha, IA, 52233

County: Linn

Director's Name: Tammie Tomash

On-Site Supervisor: Tammie Tomash

Phone Number: 3198924340

E-Mail: learn@theearlyedge.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/09/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/09/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] 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			14		14
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The Early EDGE is owned and operated by Charlie and Stephanie Vogl who are local entrepreneurs with a passion for dance and children. They began by opening a small two-studio dance facility in 2008. In 2017, that dance studio relocated and expanded to their current facility on Hawkeye Drive in Hiawatha. With over 30,000 square feet, The Dancer's EDGE is currently one of the largest private dance studios in the country. Shortly thereafter, Mr. and Mrs. Vogl began exploring a desire to add preschool programming into the experiences offered at The Dancer's EDGE. As a result, The Early EDGE was formed and is now located inside The Dancer's EDGE. The Early EDGE commenced operations on 9/5/2023.

The Early EDGE's combined director/on-site supervisor and lead preschool teacher is Tammie Tomash. Ms. Tomash has an MA degree in collaboration learning and teaching, is a current member of NAEYC, has a plethora of experience working with children and continues to participate in annual professional development. During this reporting period, Ms. Tomash reported The Early Edge was awarded an IAEYC grant for staff to participate in further professional development.

On 9/9/2025, building, grounds and program space were observed to all be in good repair. The building is visually pristine and equipped with medical-grade UV-C Air Scrubbers in all HVAC units to provide hospital-grade air quality. Since the last review, the program added outdoor play area fencing and increased nature, outdoor materials. The program's primary space continues to be located inside one spacious preschool classroom. Throughout the building and grounds on 9/9/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included indoor large gross motor events with music and movement, circle group discussion (e.g. topic as to what a collection is), snack rituals, book reading, center play experiences, and fine gross motor phonics work focused on the letter "H". Music was gently playing for children to enjoy as they engaged in classroom play experiences. One very noteworthy imaginative play experience included a clever "Ice Cream Shop". On 9/9/2025, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Transitions (e.g. hand washing, restroom break, water break) were observed to go well. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, engaging children in much meaningful discussion and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The Early EDGE's mission is to "...strive to provide an unmatched early childhood education by helping instill social, emotional, and school-readiness skills that allow students to begin their educational journey with an early edge..."

The Early EDGE has the following website for families and persons in the community learn more about their programs: https://www.theearlyedge.com/mission.

The program's management team (e.g. Mr. Vogl, Mrs. Vogl, Ms. Tomash) remains consistent and seasoned. The

management team continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. On 9/9/2025, licensing observed many notes of thanks and gratitude from families for the preschool program's wonderful curriculum offerings and great team of staff. Ms. Tomash discussed how the program's new assistant staff has begun CDA training.

On the day of the monitoring visit, The Early Edge was again found to be maintaining the required postings, maintaining a parent-staff-program information center, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities (e.g. conferences, fall open house, seasonal celebrations, gingerbread decorating party, end of year celebration). Curriculum continues to "...immerse children in engaging thematic activities to enhance their learning based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards...." and offer various enrichments including on-site guest speakers (e.g. fire fighters, community helpers, Music on the Move, Twisters Gymnastics), theme days, puppets (e.g. Porcupine Pete) and dance classes.

The Early Edge continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff discussed how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures. Ms. Tomash also talked about having support from the building owners and building maintenance team as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

The Early Edge has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through air quality alerts (2023, 2025) and the 7/19/24 global technology outage.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please review Rule 109.11(4). An area of shade is required on the outdoor play area. Remedy.

Please review Rule 109.6(4). Ensure the entire code required record check process (e.g. prior to hire, what to do if a transgression is noted, volunteers) is followed for each and every person involved in the DHHS licensed preschool. Licensing did forward refresher information and resources regarding the record check process to Ms. Tomash via email on 9/9/2025.

Also, please note - a staff is a staff regardless of full-time, part-time or substitute status. Each staff is required to have a staff file documenting each meets all staff requirements (e.g. training, record check, physical).

Ensure each child enrolled has a signed and dated valid Iowa DHHS Certificate of Immunization, Iowa DHHS Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Iowa DHHS Provisional Certificate of Immunization. Medical office printouts do not meet the code requirement.

Please review Rule 109.9(2)k. Ensure any child with a special health or medical concern has a written care plan noting condition, cares needed, when cares shall be given and any possible complications including required interventions (e.g. rescue medication, oxygen, insulin). Any required special interventions (e.g. rescue medication) shall be present on-site when the child is in attendance.

To help with the items noted in the special recommendations section of this report, please apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R (https://iowaccrr.org/staff/; Region 5 Director Becky White at 563-484- 4587).

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 10/14/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.