Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Precious People Preschool/Head Start

Provider No.: 53128

Address: 805 N Home Ave, Lenox, IA, 50851

County: Taylor

Director's Name: Stephanie Haffner

On-Site Supervisor: Sandi Riley

Phone Number: 6417826201

E-Mail: shaffner@maturaia.org
jlamb@maturaia.org

HHS Visit Date: 04/23/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/15/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] 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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Tuesday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Wednesday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Thursday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Friday			
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			10		10
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing visit was made to Precious People Preschool/Head Start on 4/23/26. This is a new center. The program uses one room in the Precious People Preschool in Lenox, Iowa. The center provides preschool services to children between the ages of 3-5 years old. They offer a morning class from 7:45 AM to 11:15 AM and afternoon class from 11:45 AM to 3:15 PM, Monday through Thursday. Fridays are teacher planning day. The directors of MATURA Head Start are Stephanie Haffner along with Joel Lamb. Sandi Riley is the onsite supervisor and lead teacher. Stephanie has been in her current position since 2023. Prior to that she was a director of another child care facility. She has her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Administration. The center opened on 12/1/25 but did not become licensed until 4/23/26. Fourteen children are enrolled. I met with Stephanie during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
The building is a locked facility. Each parent has their own code to get inside the building. There is also a bell for visitors who do not have a code. There is one programming room with a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Five children and two staff were present on the day of my visit. The room was in ratio. Initially, I observed the children having fun and then later they were observed eating snack. I was able to ask the children about where they go for fire and tornado drills and the children were able to answer correctly, although some mixed up the drills. The two staff had excellent interactions with the children; they were positive, nurturing, and attentive to their needs. The room had lesson plans. The lead teacher makes the lesson plans and Stephanie reviews. Creative Curriculum is used. There is a coed restroom for the Head Start students. A teacher goes into the restroom with the children.

Nutrition:
Precious People Preschool has a cook and prepares the meals. Breakfast and snack are provided for the morning class and

lunch and snack are provided for the afternoon class. There were thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and Safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. The center has emergency preparedness procedures. Radon testing has not been completed yet. You have one year from opening to complete the radon testing. Purell Surface is used for sanitizing and One Step is used for disinfecting. There was a fully stocked first aid kit. The center has all of the required policies and emergency procedures. Staff have been trained in the emergency policies and procedures.

Playground:
Everything on the playground is at ground level. There was a music center, an area for art in nice weather, and riding toys and helmets. Precious People Preschool is working on the playground adding new rubber surfacing. The monthly playground inspections were completed.

Transportation:
Head Start does not provide daily transportation.

Administrative Files:
One staff file was reviewed and was in excellent condition. Three children's files were reviewed. One was missing an emergency contact and permission as to who is allowed to pick up the child. The center had all the required postings.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Stephanie said they will be applying for IQ4K. The center participates in the TEACH and WAGE$ programs. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. The center provides a safe environment with daily fun and educational activities. Stephanie works with Child Care Resource and Referral and the Child Care Nurse Consultant, as needed. The center has Teams meetings every 4-6 weeks. Teams meetings include the education coordinator, family engagement and enrollment coordinator, health and nutrition coordinator, and the family support/disabilities and mental health coordinator. Teachers communicate on a day-to-day basis with families during drop-off and pickup, monthly newsletters and calendars, email, and phone.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent. Three children's files were reviewed. One was missing an emergency contact and permission as to who is allowed to pick up the child.

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 3/1/26 to 3/1/28.

I discussed with Stephanie their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Every year they do fall orientation and behavior management strategies. Through the year they do personal development if it is offered. AEA is involved and the center reaches out if they need additional resources. Stephanie does classroom assessments. There are Teams meetings every 4-6 weeks and they discuss behavioral management and children with more challenging behaviors.

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Date: 04/28/2026

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**.