Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Graettinger Terril CSD Preschool

Provider No.: 30269

Address: 101 S Schooley St, Terril, IA, 51364

County: Dickinson

Director's Name: Shannon Lange

On-Site Supervisor: Connie Miller

Phone Number: 7128536111

E-Mail: slange@gt.ratitans.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/07/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/24/2024

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			21		21
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit to this program on 11/07/25. I was able to speak with Director, Shannon Lange. She has an elementary education degree and several years of experience working with children, including teaching Kindergarten, HeadStart, and previously having registered in-home childcare. I also met onsite Connie Miller who also has many years of experience working with children.

Terril Preschool is in a room in Terril Community School. They serve 4-year-olds. They offer a 3-year-old program at their Graettinger site. The preschool serves children 4 years old on Monday-Thursday 8:15am to 3:30pm. They offer both half and full day programs. There are 13 children enrolled in this program. I will return on a day that they are present to observe.
All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The childcare environment was well-equipped with an ample supply of age-appropriate toys and learning materials, sufficient to meet the developmental needs and interests of the number of children in care. A clearly visible daily schedule of activities was posted, providing structure and predictability for the children. The classroom was rich in educational and visual stimuli, with displays that included a variety of colors and shapes, representations of the five senses, a globe to introduce basic geography, a picture-based schedule to support routine awareness, a job chart to encourage responsibility, children's artwork to promote self-expression, and an alphabet display to support early literacy development. A noteworthy activity implemented by the program involves sending home family projects for children and their caregivers to complete together. This practice fosters meaningful communication between children and their families, while also promoting active parental involvement in the child’s learning experience. These projects serve as a valuable bridge between home and the childcare environment, reinforcing educational concepts and strengthening family engagement.

Staff members are actively engaged in completing Safe Training for Iowa (STI) modules, demonstrating a commitment to ongoing professional development and adherence to state training requirements. This continued education supports staff in maintaining best practices in childcare, ensuring a safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment for all children in their care. Staff have expressed a strong interest in incorporating nature-based experiences into their programming. In previous seasons, they have engaged children in hands-on gardening activities, such as growing pumpkins. These experiences not only sparked curiosity and excitement among the children but also provided valuable opportunities for learning about plant life cycles, responsibility, and the natural world through direct observation and participation.

The program incorporates the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum to support the development of fine motor skills and early writing abilities in a developmentally appropriate manner. In addition, the curriculum includes phonics-based instruction, which helps build foundational literacy skills by promoting letter recognition, sound awareness, and early

reading readiness. These structured approaches demonstrate the program's commitment to fostering early academic development through evidence-based practices.

The program maintains a clean, well-organized, and inviting environment that supports both safety and learning. The staff demonstrate a high level of professionalism and genuine care for the children, showing a strong commitment to providing high-quality care and fostering positive developmental outcome.

One of the program's ongoing goals is to collaborate with other local childcare centers and community partners to explore the development of an after-school program. This initiative reflects a proactive approach to addressing the needs of families in the community.

Another goal is to work on IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The biggest strength of this program is the dedication of the staff who are employed at this center. They are invested in their own community and school and are hopeful to expand services in their community as there is a need for afterschool care.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

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.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Program will email consultant by 12-31-25 confirming that items that are below standards have been completed.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 11/10/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.