Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Westside Head Start

Provider No.: 30196

Address: 1509 George St, Sioux City, IA, 51103

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Rachael Ostermyer

On-Site Supervisor: Tiffany Heuretz

Phone Number: 7122555493

E-Mail: cbeatty@caasiouxland.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/20/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/16/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		8:30 AM to 1:30 PM	
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			36		36
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On February 20, 2026, I conducted an unannounced visit at Westside Head Start, which is administered by the Woodbury County Community Action Agency. The center consists of two classrooms: Classroom A, located upstairs, and Classroom B, located downstairs. Both classrooms operate only during the school year. The center's hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Classroom A serves children ages four and five, while Classroom B primarily serves three-year-olds.
The facility is secured with a buzzer system at the front entrance, and visitors must be admitted by staff. At the time of my visit, 34 children were enrolled in the program, with 30 present. I spoke with Tiffany Heuretz, the onsite supervisor, and Erica Kampfe, the lead teacher for the three- and four-year-old classroom. Ms. Heuretz holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and has extensive experience working with children.

During my observation, I reviewed all areas of the center, including classrooms, activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, the playground, and administrative records. A daily schedule of activities was posted in the classroom. The learning environment featured a variety of educational materials and displays, including colors, shapes, the five senses, a globe, a picture schedule for the children, a job chart, the alphabet, and children's artwork.

Staff were actively engaged with the children throughout my visit. They assisted with activities, conversed with children, led exercise routines, reinforced classroom rules, participated in meals at the tables, and read stories aloud. Interactions between staff and children were positive and supportive. The center uses the HighScope Curriculum Gold, which emphasizes active learning and child-led decision-making. Additionally, the program promotes dental hygiene by brushing children's teeth after breakfast and lunch.
HighScope is a research-based early childhood curriculum that focuses on active participatory learning. Children are

encouraged to make choices about their activities, explore materials, and engage in hands-on experiences. A key feature of HighScope is the "Plan–Do–Review" process, where children plan what they want to do, carry out their plans, and then reflect on their experiences. Teachers act as facilitators, supporting children's independence and problem-solving skills while providing intentional guidance. This approach fosters critical thinking, social-emotional development, and a lifelong love of learning.

Westside Head Start also implements Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a framework designed to promote positive behavior and prevent challenging behaviors through proactive strategies. PBIS uses a tiered system of support: Tier 1 provides universal strategies for all children, such as teaching expectations and reinforcing positive behaviors; Tier 2 offers targeted interventions for children who need additional support with social-emotional skills; and Tier 3 involves individualized plans for children with persistent behavioral challenges. PBIS emphasizes nurturing relationships, consistent routines, and collaboration with families. The goal is to create a safe, supportive environment where all children can succeed socially and academically. I discussed with staff discipline methods, and they report using green choice and red choice and the consequence for the red choice. They work on assisting the child with their own problem solving.

The refrigerator was clean and maintained at the appropriate temperature, and good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines for nutrition, and menus were posted for review. Lunch is provided through Sioux City Schools, while Head Start supplies breakfast and snacks. The center participates in the CACFP program, and menus are rotated every six weeks to ensure variety and compliance with nutritional standards. Medication is stored securely in a locked box out of children's reach, and documentation was available for all medications administered. Staff follow proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables were sanitized prior to meals, and both staff and children demonstrated good handwashing practices. A first aid kit was available and sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly.

The annual heating inspection was not available at the time of the visit; however, radon testing has been completed, and the center has a radon mitigation system in place. Sanitary procedures throughout the center were observed to be appropriate. A functioning carbon monoxide detector was present, and all program areas were clean and well maintained. Health and safety policies and procedures appear to be followed consistently.

The center has a fenced-in playground adjacent to the school, which includes a small slide, water play area, balance beam, musical equipment, bike riding area, stage, and climbing equipment. Turf has been installed, and monthly playground inspections are completed. Shade is available on the playground.
The center does not provide transportation for children. Field trips are arranged without center-operated transportation.

The center continues to focus on IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

In addition to daily operations, the center conducts home visits twice a year and holds parent–teacher conferences twice a year to discuss each child's progress and goals. Westside Head Start has achieved IQ4K Level 3 certification, part of Iowa's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). To earn Level 3, the center must meet established benchmarks in areas including nutrition and physical activity, professional development, family engagement, staff qualifications, and teaching practices—demonstrating a higher standard of care beyond basic licensing requirements

Staff work together as a cohesive team and remain actively engaged with the children throughout the day. They collaborate to create a welcoming and supportive environment where every child feels valued. Teachers interact warmly with children during activities, meals, and play, offering encouragement and guidance while fostering meaningful connections. Their teamwork is evident in the way they share responsibilities, communicate effectively, and support one another to ensure that each child's needs are met. This collaborative approach not only strengthens relationships among staff but also builds trust and a sense of community for the children and families they serve.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon

monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Center needs to email consultant confirming that those aspects that fall below standards have been corrected by 04/01/26

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

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

Date: 02/23/2026

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**.