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

Name of Center: Hawkeye Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 44 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22654

Street: 1501 E Orange Rd **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: PO Box 8015, Waterloo, IA, 50704

Director's Name: Penny Teisinger **Phone Number:** 319-296-4245

On-Site Supervisor(s): Penny Teisinger **E-Mail:** penny.teisinger@hawkeyecollege.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 12-05-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-28-2024

Comments :

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	20	10	20	0	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-16-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/05/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Hawkeye Child Development Center in Waterloo. I met with Penny Teisinger, the director. She has a BA in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. She has been employed with the program since August 1995. Ms. Teisinger received her National Administrator Credential (NAC) and is also a NAEYC member. Tina Freesemann is the lead teacher in the Sunburst room, and she is in charge when Ms. Teisinger is away from the center. Ms. Freesemann has an AAS in child development. She has been employed with the program since March 1999. The center employs nine full time staff members and fourteen work study student employees. The program also utilizes field experience students.

Willetta Thomas and Kelly Dunegan are the co-lead teachers in the infant room. Jenny Woods and Stephanie Lehman are the co-lead teachers in the toddler room. Tina Freesemann and Tracey Schmidt are the co-lead teachers in the two-year-old room. Hailey Bathen and Taylor Raum are the staff members in the preschool room.

Hawkeye Community College built a new childcare center in one of the existing buildings on campus. They were given permission to open at the new location on 08/24/15. The program operates 7:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and serves infants through children five-years-old. There are currently 44 children enrolled.

Hawkeye Child Development partners with Tri-County Head Start to serve Head Start eligible children. Grace Parsley is the family service worker provided by Head Start.

Hawkeye Child Development Center achieved their National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, and it expires on 11/01/29. They also have an IQ4K Level 4 that expires on 08/31/26.

The program operates out of four rooms: infants (Moonlight Room); young toddlers (Radiant Rainbows); two-year-olds (Sunburst); and preschool (Shooting Stars). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time. All rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computer, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities and allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

There is one bathroom in both the young toddler and two-year-old rooms. They each have one toilet, one sink and a changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There are two bathrooms in the preschool room with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing procedures were posted. The infant room has a lactation space for nursing mothers. In addition to sinks in the bathrooms, there is a handwashing sink in each of the rooms and handwashing

procedures were posted. There is one changing table in the infant room and procedures were posted. The center provides diapers and wipes for the Head Start children.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. The center completes Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessments, ASQ and ASQ-SE assessments. In addition, in the preschool room they complete the Brigance and Communication Skills test. Additional resources are also used. The teachers use the Conscious Discipline curriculum for the children's social and emotional development. Each teacher develops their own lesson plans. Activities are based on themes. Themes may last one or two weeks. The center sends a monthly newsletter home to the parents to keep them updated on center activities. lesson plans were available for review.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to complete daily sheets for all the children in the program. The parents can view the site throughout the day to see what the children are doing for activities and staff members are able to send them pictures.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in November 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/28/24.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. The center contracts with Head Start for lunch. They deliver lunch to the center. Family style is used in the rooms for the older children and the teachers serve the younger children. Breakfast and snack are prepared at the center in each classroom by teachers. Menus were posted and allergies are confidentially posted in the kitchen as well as in the rooms. The center uses a five-week rotation of menus for breakfast and snack. Head Start provides lunch menus.

The center provides formula, baby food and cereal to the Head Start infants. If parents want a different brand than what the program provides the parents must provide a doctor's note and the center will purchase it or the parents must provide the formula they want.

Mats are used to nap in the rooms for the older children.

There is a refrigerator in each room and thermometers were present. There are also three sinks in each room specifically for washing dishes. The three-step method is used. The infant room has the three sinks and a dishwasher.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is one refrigerator and thermometers were present. There is a dishwasher and sinks are also available to use the three-step method if necessary. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing tables.

There was a phone in each classroom with a posting for emergency numbers including the center's address and phone number. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. Community resources are available in the entrance for the parents.

There are two outdoor play areas and they are fenced in. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning in both areas. Both areas also have a grassy area for the children. Both areas also have a garden that the children help with.

The area for the smaller children has a shade structure and a small piece of climbing equipment with slides. There is a playhouse, pushing toys, rocking toys a music center and sensory table.

The area for the older children has climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is a basketball hoop, a tunnel, sandbox, rocking toys, blocks and a playhouse. There is also a compost station in this area.

This center is well organized and because of staff longevity among the lead teachers they have great teamwork. Ms. Teisinger has been with the program for several years and provides great leadership. Staff members have a terrific relationship with one another and that carries over to the care of the children. I observed staff members talk with the children about using their words to problem solve and about taking turns. They provided the children with good handwashing reminders and several of them sang with the children as they washed their hands. Rooms are decorated with several pictures of the children and art projects. Staff members provide the children with a good routine and used play to

teach the children colors and numbers. Staff members offered the children choices. They were patient and nurturing with children who have difficult behaviors at times. Staff members were on the floor with the children. They were actively engaged in play and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. Staff members had good knowledge of the children's developmental needs and social-emotional needs. I always enjoy visiting this program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is NAEYC accreditation that expires in November 2029. They have an IQ4K level of 4 that expires on 08/31/26.

They partner with Tri-County Early Head Start and Head Start to serve children. As a result, Head Start provides them with a family worker to assist the families with resources. The family worker and teachers make home visits.

Shared Vision Preschool funding through the Department of Education-effective August 2020 and continued for 2023-2024. They are in the process of working on a new application for FY 2025-2030.

The center completes Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessments, ASQ and ASQ-SE assessments. In addition, in the preschool room they complete the Brigance and Communication Skills test.

CCAMPIS Grant is continuation (Child Care Access Means Parents in School-Federal grant to help students pay for child care costs).

All children receive vision screenings through Early Head Start/Head Start and hearing screenings through Central Rivers AEA.

The center is a lab location for early childhood education students, nursing students and OTA students for field experience.

Ms. Teisinger states they have the privilege of having field experience students and work study students to place in rooms as additional staff members. This provides more individual attention to each of the children.

The center is part of a Free Brightwheel Software contract for direct communication with the parents along with daily reporting and sending pictures.

The center uses the ReadyRosie app, which is a free education app for preschool children's families to help engage with their child at home in simple fun educational activities and experiences.

The lead staff members have team bonding days throughout the year where they have fun with each other outside of work along with reenergizing relationships. The next scheduled team bonding day is 12/16/24.

Five out of the nine lead staff members were able to attend a Conscious Discipline two day workshop on "Creating the School Family" in Orlando, Florida in March 2023.

In the summer and spring 2024 semesters, both playgrounds were very successful with growing veggies: along with making salsa, taste testing, salads and other classroom nutrition lessons with the veggies. They then were able to take them home to share with parents and families.

Hawkeye Community College has a new Annual Performance Evaluation "NEOED" for all staff. Staff reflect and evaluate their performance then submit it to their supervisor. The supervisor will evaluate their performance then meet to go over and discuss it and set goals. Finished in November 2024.

There are several visual cues in the classrooms to identify centers and show children the routines.

Ms. Teisinger states all the lead teachers in their program have a degree (either a BA or AA) in early childhood education. She states the teachers are experienced, passionate consistent and continue to care for the children in the program. They have great teacher longevity.

The hallway of the childcare center is decorated with pictures of the children engaged in activities and with the children's artwork. There are also pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

The program provides two home visits and two conferences to families each year.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.