Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Loess Hills Head Start

Provider No.: 43967

Address: 1717 Casselman St, Sioux City, IA, 51103

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Rachael Ostermyer

On-Site Supervisor: Kelly Osborne

Phone Number: 7122586471

E-Mail: rostermyer@caasiouxland.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/09/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/14/2025

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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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at Loess Hills Head Start on 10/09/25. The center is located in one room of Loess Hills Elementary School. I was able to speak with lead teacher Ardis Semple. Ardis has a Bachelor of Arts degree and many years of experience working with children.

This program is part of the Iowa Preschool Initiative. The center operates 8:30am to 2:30pm Monday and 8:30am to 3:30pm Tuesday through Friday. The program serves children ages 3-5 years old. The center has a buzzer by the front door and visitors must be let into the building by staff or school personnel. There are 18 children enrolled in the program and at the time of my visit there were 17 children present.

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.

A daily schedule of activities was posted for families and children to view. The classroom was bright and engaging, with displays of colors, shapes, the five senses, a globe of the world, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet. Staff were observed actively assisting children with a variety of activities, engaging in meaningful conversations, reminding children of classroom expectations, and reading stories. The atmosphere was positive and supportive, with warm and consistent interactions between staff and children. The center incorporates the High Scope Curriculum GOLD, which encourages active learning through hands-on experiences. The classroom was thoughtfully arranged into distinct learning areas, including a library, block area, writing center, puzzle station, dramatic play area, art center, sensory table, car play area, and quiet zone. Each area offered materials appropriate for the children's developmental levels, and there was a sufficient number of toys and equipment for the number of children present.

The center employs its own behavioral specialist, who was observed skillfully calming a child by offering a limited number of choices. The specialist used a calm tone and supportive guidance, helping the child regulate emotions and successfully rejoin classroom activities

Displayed throughout the room were a feelings chart, classroom job chart, picture schedule for the children, days of the week, shapes, children's artwork, and the alphabet, creating a visually engaging and educational environment for the children.

Upon review of administrative records, all required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. The center follows CACFP nutrition guidelines, and menus were posted for families to view. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided through the Sioux City Community Schools, and the center actively participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Any additional snacks were observed to be properly

labeled and stored within the classroom.
Medication is stored in a lock box out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Pictures clearly identify children's allergies, serving as a reminder for staff of which foods each child must avoid.

I observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector.

The center has a playground located just outside the door, equipped with slides, drums, balance pods, and a climbing wall. Rubber tiles surround the equipment for safety. A monthly playground inspection has been completed and documented.

Goals of the program are to increase their IQ4K level.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The staff at this center demonstrate genuine dedication to their students, skillfully providing structure and boundaries with warmth and positivity.

Center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

The center strengthens family connections by conducting home visits twice a year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

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.

There was no HHS licensing Book at this center. There were no annual inspections of fuel burning appliances nor radon testing.

Please connect with your CCRR Consultant to assist with this record keeping book.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

It is expected that the licensing binder is kept updated.

The program needs to email consultant by 111-30-25 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

Please enter all employee information into IPOWER including CPR/First aid and mandatory reporting information.

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A full license is recommended at this time.

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

Date: 10/09/2025

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**.