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

Name of Center: HACAP Head Start-North Benton **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25160

Street: 202 E 4th St **City:** Vinton Iowa **Zip** 52349 **County:** Benton

Mailing Address: 202 E 4th St, Vinton, IA, 52349

Director's Name: Deidra Benser **Phone Number:** 319-472-4761

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lisa Wieck **E-Mail:** cregan@hacap.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-09-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-15-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-18-2024

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			36		36
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2025 to 01-01-2027
	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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/09/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to HACAP Head Start-North Benton in Vinton. I met with Deidra Benser, the director. Ms. Benser has an AA in education and a BA in early childhood education. She has previous experience working in childcare. She started with the program in August 2022. Lisa Wieck is the on-site supervisor and lead teacher for the classroom. She started with the program in August 2023 and became the on-site supervisor in August 2024. Ms. Wieck has a BA in elementary education and special education. The other staff members in the classroom are Shannon Galloway and Rony Lager. Ms. Galloway is an assistant who has been employed by Head Start since May 2007. Ms. Galloway has her CDA and plans to get her AA in early childhood education. It is her career goal to become a lead teacher. Ms. Slager is also an assistant in the classroom who is receiving her CDA this month. She started with the program in October 2023.

The program operates out of a building in downtown Vinton. It operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm and serves children ages three through five-years-old. There are sixteen children enrolled.

The program operates out of a large room. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with 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. They were within ratio the day of the visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, Play-Doh, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, magnets, 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 are two bathrooms used by the class. One bathroom has one toilet and two sinks, and the second bathroom has two sinks, two toilets and a diaper changing table. Handwashing procedures were posted. Diaper changing procedures were not posted but this was corrected prior to me leaving. There are additional bathrooms in the building.

The program uses the Creative Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears, Mighty Minutes, Pocket of Preschool and Second Step to prepare lesson plans. They follow the Iowa Early Learning Standards. GOLD assessments are completed on each child. The teachers also complete ASQ & ASQ-3 Ages and Stages Assessments for the children's social and emotional development. I Am Moving, I Am Learning is used for physical well-being and motor development. They incorporate STEM/STEAM activities and nutritional education activities. Activities are based on themes. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest level. Monthly newsletters are provided to parents to inform them of studies, activities and special dates.

A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. The program is using solution kits in the classroom. This allows staff members to use flash cards with visual choices so children can try to solve

their own problems. The program partners with Grant Wood AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. The children receive hearing, vision and dental screenings. The children also receive fluoride varnish applications on their teeth.

They have Head Start Storytime every Friday at Vinton Public Library with Ms. Kelli.

The program uses the Class Dojo app to communicate with parents and they love it.

The program does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by HACAP. The HACAP building in Vinton where the Head Start is located is also a Senior Dining site. They have cooks and a licensed kitchen on site that is inspected by the Department of Inspections and Appeals. Snack is prepared by Head Start staff members. The children eat in their classroom using family style. They receive new menus each month from the HACAP dietician. Menus were posted. Allergies were posted in a confidential manner in the classroom. Disposable products are used for snack. Real dishes are used for breakfast and lunch. Dishes are returned to the HACAP kitchen to be cleaned and sanitized in a dishwasher. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is a refrigerator in the room and in the hallway and thermometers were present. Head Start has the children brush their teeth after eating.

The program is using Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing table.

Cots are used to nap. Bedding was stored appropriately.

There were two complete first aid kits.

Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number and the poison control number were posted near all the phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 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 in the classroom and in the teacher's lounge. Outlets were covered. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/18/24.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. 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. Update my poster that has the correct email address.

There is a playground on the east side of the classroom. There is no climbing equipment. They have turf for surface of the playground. They have a sandbox, sensory tables, playhouse, dramatic play center, pushing toys and bicycles. Helmets are used. They have a canopy they put up for shade during the summer months. There are chairs for the children to rest.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children. They were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. They were flexible with the schedule and had good awareness when it was time to change activities. Staff members were actively engaged with the children in activities. Staff members were dancing with the children and they celebrated a birthday of a child. They included each child in circle time. They allowed the children to share stories. Staff members had great teamwork and provided the children with routine. They used repetition to teach. There were several visual cues in the classroom. Staff members provided the children with good handwashing reminders. I observed staff members counting children, which is great. Staff members were nurturing with upset children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has monthly program meetings. They have good parent participation and take pictures of the activities to post

in the entrance. It is important to get families engaged in the program.

Ms. Benser states the program was adopted by a local Kiwanis group and they are providing each child a book and coloring book. They are also going to be gifting the program gross motor supplies to be used in the classroom.

Ms. Benser states they walk to the library every Friday. They walked to the fire station in October. They also take walks around town. In the spring the visit the community garden.

Ms. Benser states some of their families were adopted by a local "Angel Tree".

Ms. Benser states the program is open until the end of June. It then closes for six weeks and then they resume class. All the families enrolled use it.

Ms. Benser states the program is important because it provides an environment for children to build relationships and make friends.

The program makes two home visits and offer two parent-teacher conferences each school year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
They started the 2024 school year with full enrollment and with four children on the waiting list. They started the school year fully staffed and they also have two subs. One big change is they closed the part day classroom due to low enrollment because of the school district opening an early childhood wing. Ms. Benser was the part day teacher and she is the director. She was given two more sites in Cedar Rapids.

At the beginning of November Rony Slager completed her CDA. Ms. Slager had her classroom observation completed in November 2024 and she takes her CDA exam on 12/16/24.

Ms. Benser is working on IQ4K and will be working on a level 3.

GOALS:
Recruitment and Community Involvement. They had an open house before school started and have been active in community events in Vinton. The office of Head Start has been encouraging all program to be fully enrolled since Covid 19. Ms. Benser is working with local programs like ISU extension and PBS to do family engagement nights with the families.

Improving Communication with Parents. Parents love the Class Dojo app and they will have monthly family engagement events and parent committee meetings. They have a parent rep that sits on the Policy Council for HACAP.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

An administrative change is being made to name Lisa Wieck as the on-site supervisor.

*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.