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

Name of Center: East Union Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 78 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36219

Street: 1916 High School DR **City:** Afton Iowa **Zip** 50830 **County:** Union

Mailing Address: 1916 High School DR, Afton, IA, 50830

Director's Name: Peggy Hardy **Phone Number:** 641-347-5215

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** phardy@eastunionschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-05-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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 X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 04-30-2024

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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		18	54	15	87
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 02-18-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit to East Union Early Childhood Center on 2-5-2025. The program is located in the East Union Community School building. The program provides preschool, wrap around child care services to preschool age children, and before/after school age child care from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday (preschool program time is 8:15 am to 3:15 pm). During the summer and school breaks i.e. Christmas break and spring break school age child care is provided. There are 78 children enrolled - preschool children and school age children. Peggy Hardy became the director in August 2022. I met with Peggy Hardy during my visit. Lindsay Eklund is in charge when Peggy is gone. The program has a combination of NAEYC accredited, Empowerment, Shared Visions and Statewide Voluntary programs.

Observation of rooms:
Each preschool room has a lead teacher with a Bachelor's Degrees in teaching.
There are four preschool rooms, one room provides care to 2 1/2 to 3 year olds and the other three rooms provide care to 3 to 5 year olds.
My visit was at the beginning of the day and the children were combined in one room until 7:30 am to 7:40 am. The rooms was in ratio and the children were playing. The rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The activity centers, equipment/toys are rotated on a frequent basis. The staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans/activities. Each room provides newsletters for the parents.
Each preschool room has gym and music class once a week with the respective elementary school teacher.
The library and the preschool rooms are used for the school age program. Make sure you have written lesson plans/activities for the school age program.
The center has good staff longevity, the staff enjoy their jobs and love working with the children.
Family fun nights are provided throughout the year - a meal is provided and fun learning activities.
The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app.

Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. The school provides lunch and the center provides breakfast and snacks. During the summer the center provides the snacks and they participate in the free breakfast and lunch program. The children eat in their preschool rooms.

Health and safety:
If a child is prescribed medication the center follows proper medication management procedures.
Four radon tests were completed in December 2022 and the test scores were in the acceptable range. Since you are in a school the Department of Education is responsible for making sure radon testing is completed and the child care licensing doesn't no longer monitors radon testing. The program has first aid kits.
The center has all electric appliances.
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented.
Bleach/water was being used for sanitizing and disinfecting. Make sure you are following the three step bottle procedure: 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. For

bleach/water you must refer to the specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions, if the directions aren't on the bottle you will need to refer to the website on the bottle. In the past the center used Oxivir Tb for disinfecting and Sani T for sanitizing. Please consult with your child care nurse consultant for other product options for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Playground:
The center has a wonderful nature explore outdoor classroom, and they were Nature Explore Certified in 2016. The area has a stage, digging, tunnels/tubes, sand box, benches, and a shed. Pea gravel is used for surfacing. The center practices and documents monthly playground inspections. Each room has an exit to the outdoor classroom.

Administrative records:
The center has all of the emergency procedures and the emergency preparedness plan.
Peggy meets with the lead teachers weekly and monthly with the assistant teachers. Staff meetings are also held.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Peggy Hardy is confident as the director, she is organized and supportive of the staff. The staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
The rooms have wonderful age and developmentally appropriate equipment. The center uses Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold, and the Gold reporting. The outdoor nature explore classroom is a great asset to the program and they truly embrace all it has to offer. They are Nature Explore Certified.
The center participates in IQ4K level 3.
The center uses the Brightwheel childcare app.
Family fun nights are held throughout the year - a meal is provided and the families participate in a fun, hands on learning activity.

The center applies for grants.
The center has NAEYC and NAC Accreditation.

2-5-2025 I made a visit to the new East Union Infant Toddler Center in Afton, Iowa. The center will open on 3-3-2025, the capacity will be 46 children.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for East Union Early Childhood Center for 4-1-2025 to 4-1-2027.

East Union Infant Toddler Center in Afton, Iowa will open on 3-3-2025, the capacity will be 46 children.

*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.