Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Hope Waukee Preschool

Provider No.: 36479

Address: 305 Dartmoor Dr, Waukee, IA, 50263

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Jody Hufford

On-Site Supervisor: Heidi Gulliford

Phone Number: 5152642001

E-Mail: heidi.gulliford@hopewaukee.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/09/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/08/2024

Comments: Waukee Fire Marshal. For licensing regulations, Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	15	133	0	148
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/9/25. The on-site supervisor, Heidi Gulliford, was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Hope Waukee Preschool (formerly Hope Waukee Child Care Center) began operation strictly as a preschool/transitional kindergarten in 9/2018. Hope administration took over the entire operations from a prior child care center back in 2/2016. The lead director of this program and the other Hope programs in the Des Moines Metro area is Jody Hufford. Jody has a BA in education and has past experience working in child care and being a director. The on-site supervisor of this location is now Heidi Gulliford. Heidi has a BA in a child related field and also has past experience. The program serves children ages two to five years in age. The program is open Monday - Thursday. Transitional Kindergarten hours are from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Preschool hours are 9:00am - 11:30am and 12:30pm - 3:00pm. There is also a full day preschool classroom that meets the same hours as Transitional Kindergarten. The program uses the Creative Learning Curriculum, High Scope Curriculum, and Handwriting without Tears. There are a total of six classrooms.

During the visit, one group of children was outside on the playground. Staff were spaced out and interacting with the children. In other classrooms, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were again spaced out in classrooms and interacting with children. Children discussed times that they wash their hands while at the center which were sufficient.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The director and the on-site supervisor are organized and have past experience working in child care.

Staff and child files were nicely organized.

There are related Hope programs that all have the same organizational structure, handbooks, Executive Director/Programmer, etc. There in continuity.

There is a cleaning crew that cleans the center daily/nightly.

The program sends regular newsletters to parents (weekly and/or monthly). The center also uses the Bright Wheel online application for communication with parents.

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Good classroom observations and activities were seen and observed.

The program has a good working relationship with other church personnel.

The program has a large outdoor playground area which also includes a partial football field with field turf.

The director continues to believe that she has a good staff. There again is a mix of most tenured and some new staff this year.

Enrollment has again increased within the past year.

There are two classrooms that meet for full days.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
1. Some items on the snack calendar were not credible per CACFP guidelines.
2. The menus were not complete in classrooms where the center serves lunch.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

It was previously noted that the center does not go on field trips. The program will bring in agencies for presentations to children.

The center provides one snack and lunch (for full day programming) to children and parents are responsible for providing at least one snack in all classrooms. A list of what is credible is sent to parents before the school year begins.

The CACFP smart phone app was discussed at the visit.

Radon testing in classrooms was last tested 8/28/25 - 8/31/25. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff in classrooms. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The HVAC was last inspected 5/30/25.

IQ4K and I - Power were again discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I - Power profiles. The program has started the IQ4K process.

This consultant's most current contact posting was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

It is recommended a pole be installed in one corner of the fenced in playground area to prevent head entrapments. The fence is bowing some.

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Date: 09/09/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.