Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Early EDGE

Provider No.: 52262

Address: 1550 Hawkeye Drive, Hiawatha, IA, 52233

County: Linn

Director's Name: Tammie Tomash

On-Site Supervisor: Tammie Tomash

Phone Number: 3198924340

E-Mail: learn@theearlyedge.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/22/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/29/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			14		14
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The Early EDGE is owned and operated by Charlie and Stephanie Vogl who are local entrepreneurs with a passion for dance and children. They began by opening a small two-studio dance facility in 2008. In 2017, that dance studio relocated and expanded to their current facility on Hawkeye Drive in Hiawatha. With over 30,000 square feet, The Dancer's EDGE is currently one of the largest private dance studios in the country. Shortly thereafter, Mr. and Mrs. Vogl began exploring a desire to add preschool programming into the experiences offered at The Dancer's EDGE. As a result, The Early EDGE was formed and is now located inside The Dancer's EDGE. The Early EDGE commenced operations on 9/5/2023. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 14 on 9/22/2026.

The Early EDGE's combined director/on-site supervisor and lead preschool teacher is Tammie Tomash. Ms. Tomash has a MA degree in collaboration learning and teaching, is a current member of NAEYC, has experience working with children and continues to participate in professional development. During this reporting period. Since the last review, Ms. Tomash acknowledged how an assistant staff obtained her CDA.

On 9/22/2026, program space was observed. The building remains visually pristine and equipped with medical-grade UV-C Air Scrubbers in all HVAC units to provide hospital-grade air quality. The program's primary space continues to be located inside one spacious preschool classroom. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. The program has access to the outdoor play area and indoor large gross motor space. Throughout the building and grounds on 9/22/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included preschool group discussion (e.g. book reading "The Five Senses"), indoor gross motor events, food service rituals, center play experiences (e.g. ice cream shop, painting lesson). It was noteworthy to see one child admiring some of her displayed artwork from the previous week stating "...I really really like that Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

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book..." On 9/22/2026, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Transitions (e.g. hand washing, restroom break, water break) were observed to go well. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, engaging children in much meaningful discussion and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The Early EDGE's mission is to "...strive to provide an unmatched early childhood education by helping instill social, emotional, and school-readiness skills that allow students to begin their educational journey with an early edge..."

The Early EDGE has the following website for families and persons in the community learn more about their programs: https://www.theearlyedge.com/mission.

The Early Edge has achieved an IQ4K 2-Star.

The program's management team (e.g. Mr. Vogl, Mrs. Vogl, Ms. Tomash) remains consistent and seasoned. The management team continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. On 9/22/2026, Ms. Tomash discussed how approximately half of their enrolled families have returned for the additional year of preschool.

The Early Edge was again found to be maintaining the required postings, maintaining a parent-staff-program information center, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities (e.g. conferences, fall open house, seasonal celebrations, gingerbread decorating party, end of year celebration). As of 9/22/2026, curriculum continues to "...immerse children in engaging thematic activities to enhance their learning based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards...." and offer various enrichments including on-site guest speakers (e.g. fire fighters, community helpers, Music on the Move, Twisters Gymnastics), theme days, puppets (e.g. Porcupine Pete) and dance classes. Ms. Tomash shared how each child receives an academic year portfolio documenting various projects, milestones and accomplishments.

The Early Edge continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On 9/22/2026, staff discussed how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures. Ms. Tomash also talked about the continuous support the preschool has from the building owners and building maintenance team as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

The Early Edge has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are regularly reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and 2026 nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Continue to increase outdoor materials, large gross motor supplies and classroom materials (e.g. equipment cart, shed, areas for outdoor seating, areas for outdoor shade, low to ground balancing items, stepping/river stones, climbing log, riding toys, imaginative play items, nature materials). Please connect with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund (https://www.iowaccrr.org/child-care-providers/iowa-child-care-funding-opportunities/) designed to support regulatory compliance and quality childcare in Iowa.

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Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with management oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Ms. Tomash discussed how their team participates in regular professional development, how she has a great assistant staff who just obtained her CDA, and how they have a "5 deposits for every withdrawal" philosophy. Ms. Tomash talked about how they establish child specific behavior plans when needed, consider changing classroom routines, utilize their curriculum, use a verbal and visisual schedule, complete written incident reports, send children and/or staff home when needed, and exercise their required polices for enrollment and disenrollment of children as needed. Licensing and Ms. Tomash also talked about resources available through the CCR&R behavioral specialist position, our local Child Care Nurse Consultant, the local Tanager Place Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program and through our local AEA.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 10/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.