Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Rock Valley Head Start

Provider No.: 51531

Address: 2707 Discovery Dr, Rock Valley, IA, 51247

County: Sioux

Director's Name: Kendra Rensink

On-Site Supervisor: Amy Moss

Phone Number: 7124769492

E-Mail: krensink@midsioux.org

HHS Visit Date: 01/14/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/31/2024

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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 12:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 12:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 12:30 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 12:30 PM	
Friday			
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			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 01/14/26], I completed an unannounced visit at the Rock Valley Head Start Program located within the Project Youth Childcare Center in Rock Valley. Upon arrival, I was warmly greeted by Amy Moss, the lead teacher and onsite contact for the program. Ms. Moss brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her role. She holds an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and has been a valued member of the Head Start Program for 11 years. In total, Ms. Moss has 15 years of experience working with children and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Education, demonstrating her commitment to continued professional growth.

The Head Start program operates Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the school year and serves children ages 3 to 5. At the time of my visit, 17 children were enrolled, with 12 present in the classroom. The program is housed in one room of the Project Youth Childcare Center, creating a cozy and engaging learning environment for the children.

During the visit, I observed all areas of the program, including classroom activities, nutritional practices, health and safety measures, field trip and transportation procedures, and administrative documentation. The classroom was bright and welcoming, with a posted daily schedule and displays of colors, shapes, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet. These visual supports help children feel secure and engaged in their learning environment. The program utilizes the High Scope Curriculum Gold, which emphasizes active learning and child-centered experiences. Additionally, the classroom incorporates both English and Spanish labels, supporting language development and inclusivity.

Throughout my observations, staff were actively engaged with the children—assisting with activities, leading exercises, reading stories, and sitting with children during meals. Staff interactions were warm and positive, with frequent

conversations and gentle reminders about classroom rules. This nurturing approach fosters a sense of belonging and encourages social-emotional growth. Staff also encourage toilet training using positive reinforcement, which helps children feel supported and confident as they develop independence. This nurturing approach fosters a sense of belonging and encourages social-emotional growth. It was evident that staff are very involved with the children in their care, creating an environment where children feel valued and safe.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The program maintains documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills, and radon levels were within the appropriate range. A carbon monoxide detector was present near the entrance. There is a first aid kit to address minor injuries. No children were currently on medication. Meals are prepared onsite by the Project Youth Childcare Program and delivered to the Head Start classroom on a cart. The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and follows its guidelines for breakfast and lunch. After breakfast, children brush their teeth, promoting healthy habits.

Outdoor play takes place in a fenced-in playground adjacent to the building. The playground is well-equipped with slides, trikes, balls, climbing structures, toys, and a playhouse. Safety surfacing of poured rubber surrounds the equipment, and an additional turf area provides space for active play. Shade is available to protect children during outdoor time. Transportation for field trips and daily attendance is not provided by Head Start; families are responsible for transportation.

Staff files are maintained at the main Head Start office and will be reviewed at a later date.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The Program is certified at a level 3 for the IQ4K program. A Level 3 rating shows families this center is firmly committed to quality care—it reflects more than just meeting the basics (Level 1) or initial improvements (Level 2), showing real accomplishment in key indicators of high-quality early education 31. It also positions the program to:

Stand out as a trusted, skilled provider in the community

Gain access to resources and bonuses that support further program enrichment

Engage confidently with families who are actively comparing childcare quality levels before selecting a program

The Head Start program benefits from a strong support team that includes an education specialist who works directly in the classroom, a family worker to assist and engage families, a nutritionist to promote healthy eating habits, and a health and disability specialist to ensure every child's needs are met. In addition, Northwest AEA partners with the program to provide services for children with identified needs, ensuring individualized support and inclusive learning opportunities.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended at this time.

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 01/14/2026

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**.