Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Wee Soar Daycare and Preschool

Provider No.: 22190

Address: 509 N Iowa Ave, Nora Springs, IA, 50458

County: Floyd

Director's Name: Lori Jost

On-Site Supervisor: Taylor Hedegard (lead PS), Clair Walkner (lead DC)

Phone Number: 6417495301

E-Mail: ljost@centralsprings.net

HHS Visit Date: 10/28/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/04/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] 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)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			18	36	54
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Wee Soar Daycare and Preschool program on 10-28-25 where I met with lead teachers Clair Walker and Taylor Hedegard. The center director, Lori Jost. was not in. The program is located in the elementary school in Nora Springs and occupies 3 classrooms. Lori has been with the center since 1998 and is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and training. Clair has been with the center since 2024 but has extensive experience in early childhood care with other centers. Taylor took over the lead preschool teacher position at the start of the 2025-26 school year and does have a formal teaching license. The program provides preschool, wrap around daycare, and before & after school programming to children that are preschool age and older during the school year. The preschool operates in two sessions with one in the morning, and one in the afternoon. There are currently 30 children enrolled in the program between the two classes. The daycare has 58 children enrolled in the program though not all attending at any given time with the numbers varying due to the before and after school program being open to all students who can attend on a drop in basis. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of program and classrooms remains the same for the daycare as identified in the past, but the preschool moved to a new classroom location. The program makes use of 3 classrooms with one for the pre-school, and separate classrooms for the daycare, and the before and after school program. The preschool moved to a classroom that shares a connecting door to the classroom used by the daycare for the after school programming. The classroom was measured to have 632 sq.ft. of useable floor space allowing for a capacity of 18 children. The daycare and after school rooms have a connecting doorway between the rooms. The afterschool programming room has several larger tables and is used for snack and meal service for all of the classes. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns due to maintenance. Each room has multiple exits from the room including exits that provide direct access to the outdoors, or other interior hallways. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. There is a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Sinks are located in the rooms to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located just off the programming space for the afterschool room, and just off the main hallway for the other classrooms. Each room has a standard classroom design with a large open space that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement of each room is such that there are no blind areas.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The preschool had an established curriculum with specific learning concepts for a number, letter, shape, color, and American Sign Language that are presented each week. While the daycare and afterschool program have mirrored the preschool in the past a copy of any planned curriculum or activity focus was not present on the day of the visit. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children and presenting the

planned curriculum. There was only 5 child attending the daycare program and the result was that much of the interactions were focused on child interests and keeping the children entertained but still having some learning focus with identifying numbers and letters during play. Having a more relaxed program can be very effective especially when working with small numbers of children. The center will want to develop a curriculum plan and ensure that staff do continue to move through the planned daily schedule to ensure children have an opportunity to develop and refine a wide range of skills. Good behavior management techniques were observed during the visit with the teachers providing guidance and suggestions to the children. There were no significant behavioral concerns on the day of the visit and those minor issues that did arise were easily addressed with redirecting behavior as needed. The teachers did maintain a focus on positive peer interactions and safety. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of the visit. The teachers did ensure that all children washed their hands following restroom use, prior to meal service, and other time they became soiled. While the school custodial staff does the majority of the deep cleaning at the end of the day the teachers and staff do clean as needed during the day with sanitizing tables both before and after meal service. Chemical cleaners, personal belongings, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. First aid kits are kept in the classrooms and contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The program also has access to the school nurse for addressing issues such as medication administration and responding to more serious health concerns if needed. Response plans for identified allergies and other health concerns were developed and posted in the classrooms. The daycare makes use of sleeping mat for children that nap and while blankets were provided it was reviewed that a mat cover that can be removed and laundered as needed was also required.

Meals are prepared by the school and served in the before and after school room. A limited supply of snack items is also maintained in the classroom which primarily consist of prepacked single serving items. A refrigerator is also available in the after school room. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. The teachers do wear food service gloves when handling food and food service items. When children dropped food items on the floor the staff did direct children to leave it and replaced the items that were dropped. The teachers do provide supervision at the tables when the children are eating.

The program makes use of the school playground and while the school is responsible to maintain the equipment staff will need to continue to conduct regular inspections to identify any equipment that is damaged or which is unsafe. Children would need to be restricted from using those elements which are not safe. A large mature tree provides shade, and the playground is fully enclosed by fencing.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted in an area that was readily visible to parents and visitors. Other required notices for emergency evacuation, emergency numbers, hand washing, daily schedule and preschool curriculum were also posted. As noted the daycare program did not have a copy of the planned curriculum posted as required. A random sample of child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Staff files and inspection logs and certificates were not available on the day of my visit. A request for Lori to provide scanned information via e-mail at a later date of 11-14-25 was made. That information was not received and it is assumed that either the information is missing or expired. Inspection logs and certificates were also unavailable with the exception of emergency drill logs which were current.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Documentation of employee files were not received by the date requested, and remained unavailable at the time of the report being completed.

A copy of the planned curriculum was not present for the daycare program.

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

A request was made for Lori to provide the requested documentation and either renew any missing elements, or establish a date by which staff would provide documentation.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 11/20/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.