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: Clair Walkner (lead DC)

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6417495301

E-Mail: cwalkner@centralsprings.net
bbrunsvold@centralsprings.net

HHS Visit Date: 10/19/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		6:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Saturday			

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 10-19-26 where I met with the center director, Clair Walker. Clair took over the director position at the start of the 2026-27 school year and is qualified for the position based on her experience, and on-going training. The program is located in the elementary school in Nora Springs and occupies 3 classrooms. Two of the classrooms are used for the daycare programming, and the third is used for the formal preschool programming. Taylor Hedegard 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 and is currently operating under Dept. of Education (DE) oversight. The formal preschool program transitions between DE, and DHHS oversight depending on if the 3 year old program has a child under an IEP or not. For those years when there is not a child with a qualifying IEP the program operates under DHHS authority to maintain continuity of programming. There are currently 37 children enrolled in the program between the two classes. The daycare has 92 children enrolled in the program though not all attend 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 as identified in the past. 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 is in a classroom that shares a connecting door to the classroom used by the daycare for the after school programming. 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

Programming & Interaction:
Each program had a copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum posted. The program uses the Creative Curriculum and try to reflect consistent learning concepts and focus themes.
During the visit the teachers did move through the planned schedule with presenting opportunities for small and large group teacher lead activities, as well as individual self-directed play.
Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children and presenting the planned curriculum. The teachers did an excellent job of adjusting the planned schedule and activities based on child interests. Children were encouraged but not required to participate in activities with the teachers allowing children to seek other interests provided they were not disruptive to the rest of the programming.
Good behavior management practices were observed with the teachers maintaining a focus on positive peer interactions and safety. The teachers used reminders, redirection, and positive recognition to encourage positive behavior choices. For those issues that did arise the teachers used options of guided problem solving to help the children resolve issues, but also implemented strategies such as removing one toy element from use when the children could not come to a compromise.

Health & Safety:
Good hand washing practices were observed during 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.
First aid kits are kept in the classrooms and some were depleted and need to be re-stocked. The program also has access to the school nurse for additional supplies, and 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 mats for children that nap and have obtained mat covers that can be removed and laundered as needed.

Nutrition:
Lunch is 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 present in the after school room.
The teachers do wear food service gloves when handling food and food service items.
The teachers do provide supervision at the tables when the children are eating.

Playground:
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. It was noted that several retention clips were missing that hold the fence to the support posts and this does create an entrapment risk. It was also noted that an animal had been burrowing under the storage shed and Clair reported that it had been a woodchuck that had been captured and removed.

Administration:
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.

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The school has an electronic enrollment system that allows parents to input and update contact information for children, and the school nurse maintains all child physicals and develops health response plans. Copies of emergency contact sheets, and health plans are maintained in the classrooms for all enrolled children.
Staff files were reviewed and generally found to contain all required documentation but one file had an incomplete record check.
Inspection logs and certificates were current and available.
The parent handbook was reviewed and while all required written policies were present suggestions were provided to clarify and ensure that all required elements were present.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
-- One record check was incomplete. -- CORRECTED

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

Information was provided to the center regarding completing record checks and confirmation was received on 10-21-26 that the incomplete record check had been updated.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended 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: 10/21/2026

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**.