Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Siouxland Christian Eagles Aftercare

Provider No.: 50253

Address: 6000 Gordon DR, Sioux City, IA, 51106

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Connie Bates

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122244784

E-Mail: preschool@siouxlandchristian.org
kkessel@siouxlandchristian.org

HHS Visit Date: 12/09/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/11/2025

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
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General				152	152
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit to this center on 12/08/25. I was able to speak with Director connie Bates. Ms. Bates was previously the onsite supervisor and has many years of experience working with children of this age. Connie has been a para with the school as well as a substitute teacher making her more than qualified for his role.

The program serves school-age children from kindergarten through 6th grade, providing a safe and structured environment before and after regular school hours. Operating Monday through Friday, the program opens at 6:30 a.m. and runs until 7:30 a.m. to accommodate early drop-offs. In the afternoon, services resume from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., supporting families with after-school care. In addition to the regular schedule, the program adjusts once a month to accommodate the school district's early dismissal for teacher in-service. On these designated Wednesdays, children arrive at 12:30 p.m. and remain in care until 5:30 p.m. Staff plan accordingly to ensure adequate supervision and engaging activities during this extended period.

There are 105 children enrolled in this program and 60 present at the time of my visit.

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

As a faith-based program, spiritual values are integrated into the daily routine in age-appropriate ways, fostering a sense of community, kindness, and respect among the children. Staff model positive behavior and encourage children to treat one another with compassion and understanding, consistent with the program's guiding principles.

Children are grouped into classrooms by age to ensure that activities and interactions are tailored to their developmental level. Each classroom is equipped with a variety of age-appropriate materials, including games, magnetic blocks, colored LEGOs, and other learning tools that promote creativity, problem-solving, and social development. A sufficient quantity of toys and equipment is available to meet the needs of all enrolled children, supporting both individual and group play. A daily schedule of activities is posted in each classroom, providing structure and consistency for the children. This schedule includes time for free play, organized group activities, snack, and quiet time, all designed to foster a balanced and nurturing environment. Staff members are attentive to the needs of each child and work to create a welcoming space that encourages exploration, learning, and positive peer relationships.

For administrative tasks, the program uses the Brightwheel app, which streamlines communication with families and helps manage attendance and billing. Staff use walkie-talkies to coordinate during parent pick-up times, ensuring smooth transitions and maintaining safety. The program provides healthy snacks daily. Although not currently enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the center follows CACFP nutritional guidelines to ensure meals meet

recommended standards. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/Tornado drills were documented. Radon test and annual heating inspection are exempt as the program does not serve preschool children. The center maintains strong health and safety policies and procedures to ensure the well-being of all children and staff. A fenced-in playground is located adjacent to the center, providing a secure and inviting outdoor space for physical activity and play. The playground features relatively new equipment designed for school-age children, with rubber mulch and turf surfacing installed around all play structures to enhance safety and minimize injury risk. Shade is available to protect children from sun exposure during outdoor play. The center conducts monthly playground inspections to ensure equipment remains in good condition and meets safety standards.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program fosters a positive and welcoming atmosphere that reflects its faith-based values. Staff were observed actively engaging with children during activities, demonstrating genuine interest and involvement in their experiences. This direct participation helps build strong relationships and supports the emotional and social development of each child. The nurturing environment was further highlighted by a message written by the children on a classroom whiteboard that read, “We love the after-school program,” reflecting their enthusiasm and sense of belonging.

One of the program’s ongoing goals is to continue increasing enrollment by maintaining a high-quality, welcoming environment that meets the needs of families in the community. The director has expressed a strong personal commitment to the program’s faith-based mission, stating that she loves Jesus and desires for the program to reflect that love in its daily operations. This vision is evident in the caring interactions between staff and children, the values modeled throughout the day, and the overall positive atmosphere within the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Please put handwashing signs in restrooms.

Please put thermometer in the refrigerator.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant by 01-31-26 of items not meeting licensing standards.

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

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

Date: 12/10/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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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**.