Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Southwest Valley Schools Early Childhood Center

Provider No.: 50838

Address: 1012 10th St, Corning, IA, 50841

County: Adams

Director's Name: Emily Riedel

On-Site Supervisor: Mikalah Sonntag

Phone Number: 6413224601

E-Mail: eriedel@southwestvalley.org
jlyddon@southwestva

HHS Visit Date: 01/05/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/11/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	19	21	21	77
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Southwest Valley Schools Early Childhood Center on 1/5/26. This center opened under new ownership on 1/1/20. The center was previously Hearts & Hugs Daycare and Preschool. The center moved to the Southwest Valley School on 5/15/25. The center provides child care services for infant age children to school age children. There are 48 children enrolled. Corning Head Start is located in the building and uses one of the rooms during the day and the room is used by the ECC after school. Emily Riedel has been the director since April 2022. She has been working with children since 2019. Mikalah Sonntag is the on-site supervisor. Mr. Erickson is the school superintendent. Staff are employed by the school district. I met with the director Emily Riedel during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys that are rotated frequently. All rooms were in ratio. The infant room had five kids and two staff. The cribs are spread apart at nap time. They spray and sanitize daily. Mouthed toys are removed until they have been sanitized. There was no daily schedule posted. There was a plastic bag in one of the cubbies. This is a health and safety hazard. The plastic bags need to be put up where the children can't reach them or be removed from the room. There was good interaction between the staff and the children. They were positive and attentive to their needs. The daily sheets looked good. They are on the Playground child care app. There is a two-year-old toddler room. There were six kids and one staff member. Lesson plans and the daily schedule were posted. There is a room for three- and four-year-old children. There were two three-year-olds and nine four-year-olds present. Lesson plans and the daily schedule were posted. The room had a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were having fun dancing. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The school age children use the Head Start room after school. The school age children were at school during my visit. There were no lesson plans in the school aged room, but it was reported there are lesson plans during the summer. You must have lesson

plans year-round.

Health and Safety:
There was a concern about cross contamination with the sinks in every room. The center was using water in the sink for bottles and glasses of water but also for handwashing. The center agreed to change so there is no risk of cross contamination. They will fill a water jug for each room with water from the water fountain and then continue to use the sinks for handwashing. Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. Since the program is run by the school the Department of Education is responsible for maintaining radon testing. Test results must be under a 4.0 pCi/L. Staff reported that the building is all electric. Sani Date is used to sanitize and Oxivir Tb is used for disinfecting. Make sure the three step bottle process for both sanitizing and disinfecting is used. 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. (three separate bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting are needed).

Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. The school provides breakfast and lunch. The center provides snack. Menus were posted.

Playground:
There are two separate playgrounds. The toddler and three- and four-year-old playground had a climbing structure, slides, and a merry go round. There is a shade structure. The afterschool playground has poured in surfacing. It has a climbing structure. slides, and a rock wall. Monthly playground inspections are completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Emily maintains daily contact with the staff. She has quarterly staff meetings. The center uses the Playground App. Seven children's files were reviewed. They were all missing the consent for the center to secure emergency medical or dental treatment. Three staff files were reviewed. All three were missing their annual personal development hours.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Emily is confident as the director and she has done a great job learning the licensing regulations. The center is a wonderful resource for the community. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. The center participates in IQ4K level 1. Emily reported their curriculum is pushing for more educational activities and not just play time. Staff have good interaction with parents as well as the kids. The staff will get down to the children's level. Emily's goal is to build enrollment and hire staff so they are able to build enrollment.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Three staff files were reviewed and all were missing their annual training hours.

109.9(2)d: Seven children's files were reviewed and they were all missing the consent for the center to secure emergency medical or dental treatment.

109.11(3)a: All of the programming rooms were using the handwashing sink for fixing bottles or drinking water. This is a risk for cross contamination. The center said they would begin using the sink for handwashing purposes only. There was a plastic bag in the infant room that was accessible to the children. Please make sure the plastic bags are out of the reach of children or removed from the room.

109.12(1): The infant room did not have a daily schedule and the school age room did not have lesson plans.

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

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 1/1/26 to 1/1/28.

Date: 01/09/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.