Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Humboldt County Head Start **Enrollment:** 17 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18083

Street: 401 Main St **City:** Dakota City Iowa **Zip** 50529 **County:** Humboldt

Mailing Address: 214 S 13th St, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Michelle Carden **Phone Number:** 515-332-3193

On-Site Supervisor(s): Nichole Kading **E-Mail:** mcarden@yourhs-ehs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-30-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 01-20-2022

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-03-2023

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Humboldt County Head Start program on 01-30-23 where I met with the lead teacher Nichole Kading. Nichole took over the lead teacher position for the 2022 - 23 school year and is well qualified based on her experience and education. The program is operated under the oversight of Y.O.U.R Inc. and its board of directors. The program is located in a free standing modular building on the main street of Dakota City and is the only occupant of the building. The program offers preschool services only to children 3-4 years of age. There are currently 17 children enrolled in the program served by 2 teachers, and an on-site cook. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The layout of the building remains the same from prior visits. The building has two rooms connected by a short hallway with the primary classroom on the west end of the building and the other room used for large motor skill activities, and for early intervention socialization programming. There is a bathroom located off the main programming space of both rooms with child sized toilets so that children do not need to leave the room. Sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Both rooms have windows on the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. Each room has a primary entrance so that they can be accessed independently, and both also have a secondary exit that provides direct access to the playground. The primary entry doors opened freely and fully and a clear path of egress was maintained but the secondary exits to the playground were blocked by accumulated snowfall. These are designated emergency exits with lighted signage above them and must also be kept clear of obstruction at all times. While it is not expected that the entire playground be cleared of snow accumulation a path should be cleared from the building exit to a cleared public walkway. The classrooms were observed to be clean. Where there were some minor maintenance issues such as a door handle on one of the intervening hallway doors being loose none rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern.

The primary classroom is a large open space that is divided into activity centers through the placement of play structures and furniture. Activity centers that were available included group learning, table games, media, math, reading, science, dramatic play, and sensory tables. Each center had a good selection of toys and materials that are age appropriate to the ages of the children present and are in good repair. The large motor skill room is used primarily when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play. The room was generally left as an open area where children could use toys that require more space or otherwise engage in more active play. The toys and materials included stepping blocks, jump ropes, hoops, balls, and bean bags.

A daily schedule and curriculum are posted and the teachers did follow both. The toys, materials, postings, and other items present in the classrooms did reflect and support the current theme which was focused on "Snow". This included the dramatic play center where a poly-fil product was used to simulate snow, a shovel, and a snowman created out of cover and decorated cardboard boxes were present. The wooden blocks of the building center had been covered with white and blue paper to mimic ice blocks. Books and materials in the sensory table also reflected the snow theme. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children. Good behavior management techniques were observed during my visit the teachers using positive engagements techniques of redirection, reflection, and guided problem solving.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but there were some issues that do need to be addressed. During the visit one child was observed to fall asleep. While the teachers did move the child to a safe area and allowed the child to continue to sleep a cot or sleeping mat should have been provided. The center does have individual cots available for the children and one could have been brought out. With regard to handwashing the teachers did remind children to wash their hands but should also make sure that they do so in an effective manner. During the visit one child was observed to use the restroom and the assistant teacher did remind the child to wash. The child did go to the sink but became distracted and began playing in the water without ever using any soap to wash. The teacher noticed the child playing and directed the child back to the class. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other materials that could pose a safety risk to children were kept in storage where they were not accessible to children. First aid kits were present and stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Allergy response plans were present for those children with identified allergies.

The center does have a kitchen and breakfast and snacks are prepared on-site. Lunch is prepared by the high school and brought to the center in temperature controlled containers. The center does have a refrigerator and stove that can be used to ensure that proper temperatures are maintained until meals can be served. A copy of both menus were posted. Good food handling and storage practices were observed in the kitchen. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no indication of rodent or insect infestation.

The center playground is fenced and contains climbing units and other equipment. The playground makes use of foam tiles for cushioning ground cover below the climbing units. The fall surfacing could not be fully reviewed during the visit due to snow cover. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be good condition. The climbing structures and other equipment was observed to be in good repair. Shade is very limited consisting of that which would be provided by the climbing structures, a large neighboring tree that would provide shade in the early morning hours, and the building which is located on the southern edge of the playground.

All required notices were posted in an area readily visible to parents and visitors. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information and documentation. Staff files are reviewed annually at the program administration central office and any issues identified are addressed with the administration at that time. All Inspection certificates and logs were available and current. The center does not have any fuel burning appliances, but does maintain a carbon monoxide detector as required.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center does participate in the QRS program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated as a 4 STAR program out of possible 5 STAR scale.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
-- All designated emergency exits must be kept clear of all obstructions at all times. This would include removal of snow to allow a full swing of the door, and a clear path of egress to a public right of way.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- One child was observed to be sleeping directly on the floor. If children fall asleep on the floor or in a piece of equipment they should be moved to a cot or mat.

V. 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.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.