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

Name of Center: Cherokee Head Start **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30282

Street: 1006 N Roosevelt St **City:** Cherokee Iowa **Zip** 51012 **County:** Cherokee

Mailing Address: 418 S Marion St, Remsen, IA, 51050

Director's Name: Kendra Rensink **Phone Number:** 712-225-5849

On-Site Supervisor(s): Larae Wendt & Alicia Thompson **E-Mail:** krensink@midsioux.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-30-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-07-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-24-2023

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X 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			40		40
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 04-30-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker completed an unannounced visit on 04/25/25 at 11:00 am. I was able to speak with both lead teacher/onsite supervisors Larae Wendt and Alicia Thompson. Ms Thompson is the lead teacher for the Early Headstart program 3-year-olds-room and has an Early Childhood degree and has 5 years of experience working as lead teacher but a total of 14 years working with children. Ms. Wendt has an Elementary Education degree and has worked with children for 30 years and works with the 4-year-old room.
This building was specifically for the Head Start program. The Early Head Start classroom is open Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 2:30pm and the classroom is open Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm and on Fridays 8:30am to 1:00pm. The program serves children ages 3 to 5 years.

Unfortunately, on this date it was a professional training day so there were no children to observe.

This worker observed the classroom which had a variety of visual learning tools. They consisted of colors, shapes, five senses, globe of the world, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. There were also many art projects the students had done hanging in both classrooms. The room was very colorful and had lists of the schedule for the day as well as menus. The center utilizes the High Scope Curriculum Gold in their teachings.

Staff files have already been reviewed for the year.

Menu items were posted and prepared meals follow CACFP guidelines. This kitchen is very clean and well organized. They use good storage practices as things open were dated and put into another container.

Each bathroom was clean and had visual directions for hand washing.

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. The center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. The first aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon tests completed and within normal range. Good sanitary procedures are followed. The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. Furnace inspections have been completed. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained.

The center has a large fenced-in playground with playground equipment. The center has poured rubber for surfacing. The center uses a multi-purpose room for the kids to use as an indoor playground, parent meetings, training, and small group activities.

Mid Sioux Opportunity utilizes a small bus to transport children to and from their homes each day. Children are buckled into the seats. Mid Sioux Opportunity maintains the vehicles.

On 04/30/25 this worker completed another unannounced visit to observe children at this center. The children were outside, and the facility was preparing for lunch. There were 31 children present today.

I observed good interaction between staff and the children on the playground. The playground does have shade from the building. Children were engaged in playing tag while others were on the climbing equipment. Staff were observed to be engaged with the children in play and supervision.

I also observed the kitchen staff who was making grilled ham and cheese today. There was good sanitation with the preparation of the meals.

Goals include improving the IQ4K rating.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center is organized and very clean.

Children's artwork is displayed in the room with other visual aids.

Center has a IQ4K rating of 3.

Toys, books and equipment is at the children's level and accessible.

Staff rotate in new toys periodically from a large storage room full of toys, games etc. to help the children be more engaged.

Staff appear to have a good strong core unit of employees. They are dedicated to teaching the children in their care

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: No dentist identified.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.