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

Name of Center: NICAO Head Start-Hoover **Enrollment:** 85 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 33744

Street: 1123 8th St NW **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: PO Box 1627, Mason City, IA, 50402

Director's Name: Trena Cox **Phone Number:** 641-494-1891

On-Site Supervisor(s): Keisha Boboltz (lead teacher) **E-Mail:** tcox@nicao-online.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-07-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 09-12-2022

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			140		140
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 12-08-2023

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 Hoover Early Learning Center on 12-07-23 where I met with the area supervisor Jenny McIntyre, and on-site supervisor, Keisha Boboltz. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold based on their education, experience, and on-going training. This program is located in the Hoover Elementary school in Mason City. The program does partner with the school and includes children enrolled in the school district early education intervention program. The center provides preschool programming only to children ages 3-4 years old. There are approximately 85 children in the program served by 12 teachers and aides. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The program makes use of classrooms in one wing of the Hoover elementary school that all share a large commons area with open cubbies for the children's coats and bags. The program reduced the number of rooms being used and is currently operating in only 5 classrooms this year. Each room was observed to be clean, nicely decorated, and free of any noted safety concerns due to construction or design. The school is responsible for maintenance of the physical facilities and no issues were observed for any of the classrooms. Each room has toilet facilities and sinks accessible directly from the classroom. Each room has windows along the exterior walls, and secondary emergency exit doors providing direct access to the outdoors. All emergency exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each room is arranged so that there are no blind areas though one room, (148) does have an activity area that has limited visual line of sight. The space is created by using a shallow alcove and a shelving unit to create an area with reduced stimulation and distraction. The teachers do need to be aware of the space, activities of the children, and their positioning in the classroom to ensure supervision.

Each room had a good variety of activity centers which are created through the placement of furniture, shelving, and play structures. Activity centers include options such as group learning, experience tables, reading, math, science, dramatic play, art/crafts, puzzles, and media centers. Each center was well stocked with age appropriate items that were in good repair though some items were showing their age. One example was a dramatic play kitchen set where some of the doors were sagging on the hinges. While not being a safety concern or significantly impacting the viability of the unit it is something that should be monitored for repairs or replacement in the future. A copy of the daily schedule, planned curriculum were posted and readily available to parents. Each classroom had identified a general learning focus along with specific learning concepts for letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. Each classroom had rotated the materials in the activities centers to support that theme

Good interactions were observed with all of the teachers being actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum with reading books, doing experimental science activities, or engaging with the children during free play activities. The center uses positive intervention techniques to manage behavior. This included options such as encouraging children to rejoin the group but not demanding that they do so and engaging in a power struggle over compliance. The teachers would use reminders and transition activities to focus the children on positive options, and redirect the children as needed.

Good health and safety policies and procedures were observed with the teachers waiting for children to leave the immediate

area before engaging in cleaning. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other items that could present a safety concern were stored in areas inaccessible to the children. Good hand washing practices were generally observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as needed. It was observed that some children did not wash there hands in an effective manner such as some who did not use soap. First aid kits are maintained in the classrooms and were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The program also has access to the school nurse if needed. Allergy and other health plans were present and posted where teachers could access them for those children who needed them.

Meals are prepared by the school and served in a separate lunch room from the regular school children. A copy of the planned menu is posted and does identify a good variety of nutritious meals. I was able to observe the breakfast service during the visit. The meal served on the day of the visit included breakfast pizza, peaches, and milk. Meals are served family style with the children serving themselves and the teachers providing assistance as needed. Measured scoops and child sized serving items are used to ensure each child receives a full serving. The teachers do sit at the tables with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits. Good food storage and handling practices were observed during the visit.

The center makes use of a school playground which has a climbing structure, swings, rockers, and bars. The teachers had sectioned off the structures were not age appropriate and directed the children to other equipment. During the visit there was a question about the use of a climbing structure that had been identified as not being able to be used due to damage. In reviewing the structure the damage was due to a heavy rubber seal coat used to protect the metal components from weather and rust. The unit was observed to be structurally sound and Jenny and Keisha were told that the children could make use of the aspects of the structure that were appropriate to their developmental level. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing and appeared to have been aerated in some areas but not around the climbing structure that had been blocked off. It was reviewed that the fall surfacing in that area did need to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material. There is a storage shed where additional play materials are kept. The playground space is fully enclosed by fencing which was in good repair. Shade is limited to that which is provided by the building and play structures.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. The center has moved to fully electronic file maintenance but does print contact sheets for each child with parental and emergency contact information, authorized pick-up, and activity authorizations. Current physicals had been obtained for all children. Staff files are maintained at the central administrative offices for the program and will be reviewed at a later date and any concerns that are identified will be addressed with the program at that time. All inspection logs and certificates are also maintained on-line and at the central office and again will be reviewed during the visit to that location and addressed as needed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program seeks to implement best practice and is also accredited by NAEYC, and participates in the IQ4K program. The program is currently rated as a level 4 program out of a possible 5 level scale for IQ4K.

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

None Cited.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please notify the licensing consultant identifying a plan to correct and maintain those issues cited as not meeting licensing standards and an anticipated dated of completion. 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.