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

Name of Center: Unity Head Start **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30155

Street: 1901 Unity Ave **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51105 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 2700 Leech Ave, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Rachel Ostermyer **Phone Number:** 712-279-6839

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alicia Ivory **E-Mail:** rostermyer@caasiouxland.org, cbeatty@caasiouxland.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-03-2024

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 03-18-2021

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

Date Inspected: 06-09-2022

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 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	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 04-04-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited Unity Headstart on 04-03-24 and visited with new onsite supervisor/lead teacher Alicia Ivory as Ann Rickord retired. Ms Ivory has her associates degree in Early Childhood with a substitue license and eight years experience working with children. Unity Headstart is located in the Unity Elementary School. This program is part of the Iowa Preschool Initiative. Hours of operation is Mondays 8:30am to 2:30pm, and Tuesday thru Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm. Families drop off and pick up at a separate door from the rest of the school. The program serves children ages 4/5 years old. The school has a buzzer by the front door and visitors must be let into the building by school personnel.

There are 18 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 13 children present. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, five senses, globe of the world, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, engaging the children in activities, sitting at the tables with the children during meals and reading stories to the children. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center utilizes the High Scope Curriculum Gold in their teachings. Staff files are located at the main office and will be reviewed at a later date. The program brushes teeth after breakfast and lunch.

The program's exterior door did not close all the way when opened and needs to be fixed; also there was a ceiling tile that was not secured in one side which could fall and needs to be addressed as well. Ms Ivory stated that over Spring Break the school had replaced lights in the room. She will make sure the school knows on these two issues.

Refrigerator is clean and keeping proper temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted. All meals are provided through the Sioux City Schools. Unity School Meals are all free to students. Meals are usually done family.

Medication is stored in a lock box out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test was not available at the time of the visit and need to be completed. Annual heating inspection was not available at the visit. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a fenced-in playground next to the school. The playground has tether balls, musical equipment, paint board and climbing equipment. The program does not use the climbing structure as it is not age appropriate for the age of children headstart serves. Cushion squares are around the equipment. Monthly playground inspection completed. Shade is available on the playground.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The center does not transport the children. The program usually brings people or things of interest to the classroom.

All the required postings were visible, however, an updated license certificate needs to be posted. The center's discipline practices consist of talking to the children, PBIS, Tucker turtle, redirection and giving the children choices.

Goals of the program: Ms Ivory is adjusting to her new role as lead teacher and want to continue her learning and organization skills. Also, parents are not allowed in the school, which it can make it harder to get to know families. Ms. Ivory is hopeful that that process will change.

Strengths of the program is that the program serves the whole family and not just the child. The program works hard to ensure families has their child's health needs met(dental/physicals).

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center provides a monthly newsletter to parents.

The center has two home visits a year with families as well as two parent-teacher conferences a year with families.

Children are provided dental, vision, and hearing screenings.

The center participates in the preschool initiative project.

Children's art work is displayed in the room.

The center has a website and Facebook page.

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Exterior door did not shut all the way without pulling it shut; also a ceiling tile was hanging on one of the corners.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please send me an email by 05-01-24 confirming that the aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

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.