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

Name of Center: Emmet County Head Start **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30265

Street: 315 North 6th Street **City:** Estherville Iowa **Zip** 51334 **County:** Emmet

Mailing Address: 101 Robins Street, Graettinger, IA, 51342

Director's Name: Irene Mayland **Phone Number:** 712-765-1058

On-Site Supervisor(s): Chantel Kloucek **E-Mail:** dhelget@udmo.com, jedwards@udmo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 11-19-2020

Comments : Compliance 12/19/20

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			71		71
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-09-2023

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 Emmet County Head Start program on 02-07-22 where I met with the On-Site Supervisor, Chantel Kloucek. Chantel is well qualified for the position having been with the Head Start program since 2014. The program is one of several Head Start locations overseen by Upper Des Moines Opportunities where Irene Mayland is the Program Director, and Julie Edwards is the executive director. The program is located in the old Roosevelt Elementary school in Estherville and is the only occupant of the building. The program provides Head Start preschool programming only serving children 3 - 4 years of age. There are plans to move younger children that attend Early Head Start to the location in the future. There are 52 children enrolled in the program in three classes served by 6 teachers, several home consultants, 2 cooks, and other staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed.

The general layout and design of the center remains the same as in other visits. The program occupies three classrooms, and also makes use of the gymnasium. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns identified due to maintenance. Covers have been installed over radiators in each occupied classroom, hallways and the gymnasium. Restroom facilities are located off the main hallways and children are escorted to the restrooms as needed. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. One window in the 4 year old classroom is designated as a secondary emergency exit. The other two classrooms share an intervening door that serves as secondary egress allowing them to exit through the other classroom if needed. All exits opened freely and easily. The program has a lower level with enclosed locker rooms that serve as emergency tornado shelters. Sinks are located in each of the 3 year old classrooms to facilitate hand washing.

Each room has been arranged with activity centers through the use of furniture and equipment that are arranged so as not create any blind areas. Activity centers include dramatic play, blocks, large & small manipulatives, art/crafts, sand/water play, and group learning. Each classroom has a Smart Board which can be used as a chalk board, or for internet access to present videos or other curriculum related content. Each center was stocked with a good variety of toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A daily schedule and copy of the planned curriculum is posted for each room. The center uses the Creative Curriculum and Gold Assessment to develop the curriculum.

Good interactions were observed in each classroom with the teachers being actively engaged with the children either implementing the planned curriculum or attending to their needs. The teachers do an excellent job of using every opportunity to engage the children in building skills both in the planned curriculum activities, and in organic learning moments. As examples during free play activities the teachers would move through the room joining the children in their play asking them questions about the the things they were building, pictures they were drawing, or the imaginative play they were engaged in. Some questions were specifically focused to reinforce the understanding of learning concepts related to counting, colors, or shapes, and others were more cognitive asking the children to explain or theorize. The center uses a positive behavior support approach that is effective in reducing the occurrence of negative behavior. During the visit the teachers would recognize and praise positive behavior, use transition activities and reminders, and when children did have issues the teachers would engage with them in guided problem solving and conflict resolution.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as needed. Each classroom has a first aid kit which contains a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs, and additional supplies are maintained in the office. There were no children currently taking any medications on the day of my visit. Children who have allergies or other health issues have response plans that are available in the classrooms. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they are not accessible to the children.

Lunch is prepared by the school cafeteria and transported in hot holding containers, and the center has acquired heated holding carts to ensure that temperatures are maintained. A limited supply of food items are kept on-site to provide breakfast and snacks. Good food handling practices were observed on the day of my visit with the staff washing their hands, and gloving when handling foods. Good food storage practices were observed with both refrigerated and dry pantry items properly stored. Meals are currently being served in the classrooms with family style service. The teachers do sit at the tables and eat with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

The center completed the installation of a playground which now has two areas with climbing structures. The playgrounds are fully enclosed, and separated from each other by fencing. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing. The center does have a gymnasium which provides the children with an area where they can engage in large motor skill activities when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Reporter notice , and License certificate were present on the day of my visit. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center uses an electronic file system for child information and all required information was present and current for each child. Staff files are reviewed separately at the program central office and any issues identified are addressed with the parent agency at that time.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has continued to have a focus on growth over the past year with beginning renovation construction of classrooms to move the Early Head Start classes to the building with an anticipated completion date in the early summer.

The center has also renovated the kitchen with the installation of a new fire suppression hood that will allow them to begin doing full from scratch meal preparation on-site.

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 provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct 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.