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

Name of Center: Le Mars Head Start & Early Head Start **Enrollment:** 63 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30226

Street: 180 10th St **City:** Le Mars Iowa **Zip** 51031 **County:** Plymouth

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

Director's Name: Kendra Rensik **Phone Number:** 712-546-9658

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shelly Ostermeyer **E-Mail:** lm1hs@midsioux.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-16-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-12-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-17-2023

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General		16	60		76
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 04-17-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A DHS visit was done on 04-16-24 and spoke with Shelly Ostermeyer who is the lead worker/onsite supervisor. Ms Ostermeyer has 27 years of experience at the center and a 2 year associate degree. Each room has its own lead teacher/onsite supervisor. Le Mars Head Start & Early Head Start is five separate classrooms that are located in Weidler Hall in Le Mars. The two 4-year old classrooms operate 8:30am to 3:00pm Monday through Thursday and Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm. The 3 year old classroom also runs 8:30 to 3:00pm Monday thru Thursday and 8:30 to 1:00pm on Fridays. The Early Head Start program (specifically designed for children 18 months to 36 months) is in two classrooms that operate year round Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm and 8:30 to 1:00pm on Fridays. The rooms are all on one floor and share a large kitchen where all the meals are prepared. Two fenced-in playgrounds are close to the building. One is for the Early Head Start and the other for the 3-5 year olds.

There are 63 children enrolled in the program. 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 daily 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, 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. EHS will close around 08-16-24 and reopen 09-03-24 for the 2023-2024 school year. The center sends home snack packs weekly with the children. When school is out then EHS will be everyday.

Refrigerators are clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Nutritious meals are prepared onsite in a kitchen that is inaccessible to the
children. The center follows the CACFP guidelines. Good food storage practices are followed. The kitchen is very clean.
Center Health & Safety.
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children, however at this time there is no child. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication, however at this time their are no children on any 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. Annual heating inspection was not available at the time of the visit. Radon tests were high in a couple of rooms and needed to be retested. 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
Two fenced-in playgrounds are close to the building. One is for the Early Head Start and the other for the 3-5 year olds.
Sufficient
surfacing materials new poured rubber around the playground equipment in the toddler playgrounds. The two year old playground has slides, climbing equipment, picnic tables, teeter totter and a tunnel. The older playground has swings, slides,

climbing equipment, playhouse, teeter totter,
tunnel and trikes. The 3-5year old playground has wooden mulch which the program and will be updating the surfacing and a new climbing structure this spring. They will also add a shade structure and a new shed.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips: The school or regional transit system transports the children to and from home. The program does not transport for field trips. Sometimes they will walk to the YMCA or Fire Station for a field trip. The program does bring community members to the center and makes presentations to the children.

Center Administrative Records
All the required postings were visible. The center's discipline practices consist of using time out, PBS, tucker turtle and talking with the children to resolve any problems that
arise during the program.

Staff files were not reviewed as they are located at the main office and will be viewed at a later date.

Strengths of the center is that staff works well as a team and have good relationship with the children and families that they serve. Staff are caring and good teachers who's heart are for the children they serve.

Goals of the center is to increase enrollment and maintain and be fully staffed. Update the headstart playground with new surfacing and an additional play structure.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

1. Employees of this center have years of experience with this program. Most with more than 10 years experience.

2. IQ4K level 3.

3. Center has two parent teacher conferences during the year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

4. Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

5. Center has child size furniture throughout the rooms. Staff switch out toys every couple of weeks.
6. Staff complete two home visits for every student.

7. Material in the classrooms is in good repair with many new items.

8. The center actively works with children managing their food service skills.

9. The center takes advantage of additional resources to audit their child and employee files.

10. This center as a superior kitchen area regarding size and organization.

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

none

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.