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

Name of Center: Drake University Head Start-Boone **Enrollment:** 15 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28425

Street: 1111 S Linn St **City:** Boone Iowa **Zip** 50036 **County:** Boone

Mailing Address: 3800 Merle Hay Rd Suite 323, Des Moines, IA, 50310

Director's Name: Susan Abel **Phone Number:** 515-432-2872

On-Site Supervisor(s): Minelia Solis **E-Mail:** susan.abel@drake.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 11-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-27-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2024

Comments : Boone Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years. Boone typically does annual inspections.

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			17		17
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 11-12-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/8/24. The on-site supervisor and her assistant were both present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Drake University Head Start - Boone is located in the Goldthwaite-Garvey Family Resource Center in Boone, IA. This center and Child Care Junction, are also located in this building. There is a secure entrance into the building. The Head Start program uses one classroom down one of the main hallways. The program is overseen by the Drake University Head Start program. The director and program coordinator of this program is Susan Abel (formerly Miller). Susan has her Master's degree in Special Education and her BA degree in Child Development. Susan has also worked in the child care field for a number of years. The on-site supervisor and lead teacher of Boone Head Start as of 9/2023 is Minelia Solis. Minelia has a CDA and a BA in Early Childhood Education. She also has past experience working in child care.

The program serves children ages three to five years in age. Classes are held full days, Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 2:30pm. The program uses the Teaching Strategies Gold Curriculum (part of Creative Learning Curriculum) in their teachings and activities with children.

During the visit, children were observed engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up within the classroom. Good activities and staff/child interactions were observed and overheard. Good staff redirection of a child to keep them on task was also observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program participates in the food program (CACFP).

The program continues to partner with the Boone County School District for lunches. The school district continues to provide/cater in lunch for the Head Start program.

The building custodial staff clean the floors and classroom nightly.

The program has their own nurse consultant, family advocate person, behavioral specialist, mental health consultant, and other in-house professionals who work within the Drake Head Start programs.

Parental participation and communication is stressed. There are quarterly home visits and two parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year. In addition to the above, the lead teacher also visits children in their homes two times a school

year.

The program has a website through Drake Head Start where additional information about the program can be obtained.

Staff bios and pictures are posted at the main entrance to the classroom.

The program participates in a program designed to get children more physically active and fit. The name of this program is "I am moving, I am Learning".

The two staff members in the classroom work well together. There was a good flow and organization to the class day and activities.

The program participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The program has their own indoor and outdoor gardens and they introduce children to new/different foods to try.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1staff member is a couple weeks past due for having a new SING check completed.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
There was one issue with food storage not being sufficiently sealed/stored in the freezer.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 8/22/23 - 12/6/23. The classroom came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, the classroom comes back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual boiler inspection was last completed 10/2024.

As previously noted for transportation/field trips, the program does not go off site but rather bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload training certificates into their I-Power profiles and also keep hard copies of these certificates in files.

The most current Mandatory Reporter posting was emailed to the director after the visit concluded.

*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.