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

Name of Center: Waukee Head Start **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28400

Street: 425 Ashworth Dr **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: PO Box 427, Carroll, IA, 51401

Director's Name: Tonya Weber **Phone Number:** 515-978-7428

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kelly Warthan and Rosalinda DeLaCruz **E-Mail:** tweber@newopp.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-19-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-22-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-31-2023

Comments : Waukee Fire Marshal. Licensing requirements are that these inspections are done at least every three years.

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.) X 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	20	42	0	62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 09-25-2024

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 9/19/24. Both on-site supervisors and several staff were present for this visit. This consultant also spoke to the director by phone during the visit in regards to changing the program to a "campus" with the additional classroom across the street in the Vince Meyer school building. The director sent this consultant the Fire Marshal and floor plan.

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.

Waukee Head Start is one of several Head Start programs operated by New Opportunities Inc. This program moved into a new location and renovated building in 9/2017, but they are still located in downtown Waukee. The program also has a classroom across the street in the Vince Meyer School Building. Tonya Weber is the director of this program as well as other New Opportunity Head Starts. Tonya has a Master's degree as well as a Bachelor's degree. The on-site supervisors are Kelly Warthan and Rosalinda DeLaCruz. Both individuals meet the requirements for their positions.

The program serves children ages two (in the near future) through five years in age. The program operates Monday - Friday, 8:15am - 2:45pm during the school year. The program utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum. There are two classrooms and both are licensed for 20 children in the main building. The classroom at Vince Meyer across the street has a capacity of 22 children.

During the visit, only one classroom was in use over in the main building. Children were engaged in free-choice play. Children were observed playing with dramatic play toys and also doing art projects. Over in the Vince Meyer School classroom, children were also involved in free-choice play. Staff were spaced out and walking around the different groups of playing children in both classrooms in use.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program participates in the food program (CACFP).

The program is part of the Head Starts run by New Opportunities in Carroll, IA. This program, as well as other New Opportunities Head Starts, have the same policies and procedures in place so there is continuity.

There are regular staff meetings (weekly and/or monthly) held that are agency wide as well as local programs.

Communication with parents is highly stressed throughout the year in the form of home visits (two per year), parent teacher conferences (two per year), the use of a family advocate, monthly newsletters ,etc.

There is a mix of tenured and newer staff.

There is a secure entrance into the program. Security cameras are also in place.

Files were nicely organized.

The center provides services to children five days a week and days are slightly longer than what they were in the past to better accommodate children and families.

Enrollment remains steady.

Good child/staff interactions were observed.

The center has new smart-touch boards/TVs.

There are good community partnerships.

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

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

No below standards were observed at this year's visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 12/24/21 - 12/27/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff in both classrooms. 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, levels in any classroom come 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. RADON TESTING WILL ALSO BE NEEDED FOR THE VINCE MEYER SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 8/15/24. THE CENTER WILL ALSO NEED THE SERVICE INVOICE FOR THE VINCE MEYER BUILDING.

It was previously noted that the center only takes walking field trips around the surrounding area.

The carbon monoxide detector is built into the building system.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. Some staff still need to upload training certificates if I-Power didn't automatically upload them.

It was noted that one child is within their 30 days of initial enrollment still to get a current physical and current immunization record on file with the program.

This consultant's contact information along with the license and mandatory reporter posting should also be posted at the entrance of the Vince Meyer classroom.

*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.