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

Name of Center: NEICAC-Oelwein Head Start & Child Dev **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18218

Street: 317 8th Ave SE Ste E **City:** Oelwein Iowa **Zip** 50662 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: PO Box 487, Decorah, IA, 52101

Director's Name: Sharon Burke **Phone Number:** 319-283-2304

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Brewer **E-Mail:** sburke@neicac.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-19-2023

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: 04-24-2023

Comments : Compliance on 07/07/23.

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	105	0	105
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-24-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/19/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to NEICAC-Oelwein Head Start & Child Development. I met with Nichole Leech, the program manager. Ashley Brewer, the on-site supervisor and lead teacher in classroom B, was also present. Sharon Burke is the director of the early childhood programs for NEICAC-Head Start. Her office is in the administration building in Decorah. Faye Stewart and Deb Scharnhorst are the family workers for the program.

Janel Hansel is the lead teacher in Classroom A, Megan Reagan is the lead teacher in Classroom CD and Kristen Wengel is the lead teacher in Classroom E. The program employs thirteen teachers.

The Oelwein Head Start and Child Development Program is in the same building as the Little Husky Learning Center and the Oelwein Community School preschool and early childhood special education preschool program. The core preschool program operates from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm in all four classrooms. Wraparound services are offered before and after the preschool program from 5:30 am until 5:30 pm. Head Start serves preschool aged children. There are currently 56 children enrolled. The program partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

The program operates out of four classrooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for each room except Classroom E. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in each classroom. Each classroom has a projector.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, Play-Doh, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children. Cubbies are in each room to hold the children's backpacks and belongings.

Each classroom has access to a bathroom in their room with multiple toilets and sinks. Additionally, there is a sink in each room. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The program uses a variety of resources to prepare lesson plans. They use Creative Curriculum and the GOLD assessment tool. They complete Brigance assessments and ASQ-SE assessments. They use Handwriting Without Tears, Second Step, Character Counts and Skill Streaming. Activities are planned around studies. They also participate in the Farm to Early Care and Education program. Each month they focus on a new food. Each week they focus on math, health, science, social studies, literacy, music and movement and nutrition. Each lead teacher prepares their own lesson plans. Each classroom has a parent board and parents are provided a monthly newsletter to inform them of studies, activities and special dates.

Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. They implement a new PBIS topic each month in the classroom and information is sent home to parents so they can utilize the tools at home as well. The program is also using solution kits in the classroom. This provides children with choices to try and solve

problems on their own. Parents can sign up to use the Ready Rosie app which provides activities for the family to do a home. Head Start also has family workers that go to homes to work with families and offer support and community resources.

There was a phone with emergency numbers posted in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review in each room.

Cots are used to nap.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by the Oelwein School cafeteria staff. Snack is provided by Head Start. The children eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria and they eat snack in the classroom. They serve breakfast and snack family style and lunch is served cafeteria style with the children going through a line to get a tray. Lunch and breakfast menus are prepared by the school district food director and a new menu is prepared each month. Head Start prepares the snack menus. Menus were posted. Allergies were posted in a confidential manner in the classrooms. Dishes are typically returned to the kitchen to be put through the dishwasher. However, the dishwasher is currently not working so the program is using disposable products. There is a refrigerator and milk cooler in the dining area that are used by Head Start. Thermometers were present.

The program is using Oxivir Tb to sanitize toys and classroom materials and SaniDate to sanitize the food tables. Each product has a one-minute dwell time.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in January 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection or carbon monoxide detector. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/24/23, with compliance on 07/07/23.

The school and Head Start partnered to develop a new playground. It is a large fenced in area with several choices for the children. They use a synthetic turf specifically made for playgrounds with a cushioning material. There is a concreate path and real grass for the children also. There are several pieces of climbing equipment that include activities like slides, climbing walls and still rings. There are different types of swings and steppingstones for balance. There is an obstacle course. There is a playhouse with a tunnel and a play doctor office and fire department area. They have a basketball hoop, music center and there are several games painted directly into the turf, such as tic tac toe, hopscotch, four square and a bullseye.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The staff members had terrific interaction with the children. Staff members provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. They were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members talked with the children about sharing and being kind. Staff members offered the children choices and interacted with the children at their level. The provided the children with praise. They provided the children with a routine but were flexible with the schedule to meet the children's needs and activity levels. The provided great handwashing reminders to the children. Staff members modeled good manners. The children appeared comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 4 that expires on 11/30/24.

Head Start provides care and resources for students and families both inside school and at home. The program offers wrap around care before and after the core preschool hours so that parents do not need to worry about transportation.

Staff members in each of the rooms have great teamwork and offer a consistent routine for the children. They provide the children with fun activities to learn and assessments are completed throughout the school year.

NEICAC transit is providing transportation for the three-year-old children to and from school if they are only present for the core preschool hours. The four-year-old children can ride the bus.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each of the rooms.

The level of education and training of the Head Start staff is exceptional. They exceed what is required to meet DHS licensing standards.

Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. This allows teachers to involve the parents in the program.

The program partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

The children receive hearing, vision and speech screenings. The children also receive fluoride varnish applications on their teeth.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.