Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Midland Elementary

Provider No.: 47610

Address: 510 3rd Ave North, Oxford Junction, IA, 52323

County: Jones

Director's Name: Heather Thomsen

On-Site Supervisor: Heather Thomsen

Phone Number: 3192595340

E-Mail: dmartens@midland.k12.ia.us
hthomsen@midland.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 09/10/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2024 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/12/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			30		30
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Midland Elementary has been in operation for several years. Midland Elementary remains located inside the Midland Elementary School which is part of the Midland Community School District.

Combined director/on-site supervisor Heather Thomsen has been in this role since fall 2024. Ms. Thomsen has several years of experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/10/2025, building, grounds and program space were observed to all be in good repair. Since the last review, renovations and very nice refreshes (e.g. paint, flooring, materials) to the childcare-preschool wrap around room have been completed. The areas of study included welcome and back-to-school. Evidence of previous days curriculum was nicely displayed including each child's "All About Me" work. On 9/10/2025, children were specifically observed enjoying a unique pizzeria imaginative experience with all the toppings, containers and restaurant ordering supplies needed to be fully emersed in play. One child was also noticeably chirping and smiling as he got to engage in a unique one-on-one apple painting craft. On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities including snack rituals, center play experiences and routine transitions. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be truly enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Midland Elementary's mission is "...to provide quality school-age childcare for children and their families through beneficial and stimulating programming..."

Midland Elementary is incorporated into the Midland Community School District's website: https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/.

As of 9/10/2025, Midland Elementary continues to be overseen by a board of directors. The program's management team (e.g. school principal, school district HR administration, Ms. Thomsen) continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Staff are seasoned and reported celebrating 4 years and 2 years of employment with Midland Elementary. Ms. Thomsen described their team of employees as solid and innovative, a team who work well together and people who have much knowledge of the unique rural community in which the childcare and school are located.

On 9/10/2025, Midland Elementary was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining an information area for parent-staff-programming, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Curriculum continues to compliment preschool teachings and incorporate center play experiences, literacy activities, outdoor fun, science/hands-on activities, and teacher inspired ideas.

Midland Elementary continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On 9/10/2025, staff discussed how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures. Staff also talked about continuing to have collaborative support from their board and the school district (e.g. school kitchen staff, school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team) as to building and grounds daily conditions and repairs.

Midland Elementary has emergency plans, policies, and procedures. The program has successfully navigated through Jones County flooding events, January 2019 Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, air quality alerts (2013, 2015) and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please review rule 109.11(4)a which requires licensed outdoor childcare space to be free from contamination by possible drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water and include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Currently, the childcare playground has insufficient shade to accommodate the number of children served. On the playground, there was also a gap around what appears to be drainage of the building. Remedy. To help with the outdoor notes in this report, consider applying for the "Growing Iowa" fund designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R (https://iowaccrr.org/staff/; Region 5 Director Becky White at 563-484-4587).

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The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 09/29/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.