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

Name of Center: Cherokee Head Start **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30282

Street: 1006 N Roosevelt St **City:** Cherokee Iowa **Zip** 51012 **County:** Cherokee

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

Director's Name: Kendra Rensink **Phone Number:** 712-225-5849

On-Site Supervisor(s): Larae Wendt & Alicia Thompson **E-Mail:** krensink@midsioux.org

Date(s) of Visit: 03-12-2024

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:** 02-07-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-24-2023

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: 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			40		40
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 03-13-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited the center on 03-12-24 and spoke with lead teacher/onsite supervisors Larae Wendt and Alicia Thompson. Ms Thompson is the lead teacher for the Early Headstart program 3 year olds-room 1, and has an Early Childhood degree and has 5 years of experience working as lead teacher but a total of 14 years working with children. Ms Wendt has an Elementary Education degree and has worked with children for 30 years and works with the 4 year olds-room 2. Cherokee Head Start 1 & 2 is located in a building built specifically for the Head Start program. The Early Head Start classroom is open Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 2:30pm and the Headstart classroom is open Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm and on Fridays 8:30am to 1:00pm. The program serves children ages 3 to 5 years.

There are 25 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 23 children present. (11 children in the EHS classroom and 12 children in the Headstart Classroom). 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 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, globe of the world, 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, 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. The program continues to have issues with the roof with causing some water damage but is hopeful that this has now been taking care of. They use the a room in the newer addition for large motor and inside play as well as for meeting with parents. The program added cameras outside of the building but is also wanting to add cameras in the classroom.

Staff files will be reviewed at a later time as their files are at the main office.

Center prepares meals onsite in a kitchen that is in the building. Menus posted and prepared meals follow CACFP guidelines. Very clean kitchen. Good food storage practices were observed.

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering 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. Radon tests completed and within normal range. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. Furnace inspections need to be completed. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

The center has a large fenced-in playground with playground equipment. The center has poured rubber for surfacing. The center uses a multi-purpose room for the kids to use as an indoor playground, parent meetings, trainings, and small groups.

Center Transportation/Field Trips

They have not gone on field trips Outside experiences come to the center. Mid Sioux Opportunity utilizes a small bus to transport children to and from their homes each day. Children are buckled into the seats. Mid Sioux Opportunity maintains the vehicles.

Goals of the program would to have consistent staffing as they have had staffing issues this school year. Looking at changing date of EHS to extend eligibility of child's birthdate to the end of the year rather than September 15.

Strengths of the program is that staff work well as a team and have a good relationship with the children and families they serve. Headstart is also focusing on the mental health and wellness of staff and more onboard trainings for when new staff start employment.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center is organized.

Children's art work is displayed in the room.

Center has a IQ4K rating of 3.

Toys, books and equipment is at the children's level and accessible.

Staff rotate in new toys periodically from a large storage room full of toys, games etc.

Staff are very animated when reading stories to the children. This helps to maintain the children's interest and attention.

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.