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

Name of Center: Midland Elementary **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47610

Street: 510 3rd Ave North **City:** Oxford Junction Iowa **Zip** 52323 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: PO BOX 109, Wyoming, IA, 52362

Director's Name: Heather Thomsen **Phone Number:** 319-259-5301

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Thomsen **E-Mail:** dmartens@midland.k12.ia.us hthomsen@midland.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 09-26-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 08-12-2024

Comments : Does Comply.

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			30		30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 10-14-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Midland Elementary has been in operation for several years. The program is located inside Midland Elementary School which is part of the Midland Community School District. Midland Elementary is a profit program which operates year-round Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. The program serves preschool-age children. Current enrollment is 18.

Since the last review, the program obtained a new combined director/on-site supervisor in fall 2024. Combined director/on-site supervisor Heather Thomsen has been with the Midland Community School District for over 3 years and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/26/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Midland Elementary is a well-established childcare program located in a predominantly rural community. The program offers a childcare option to preschool-age children outside of the 4-year-old voluntary statewide preschool program.

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

Midland Elementary is incorporated into the school website: https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/.

Midland Elementary is located inside the Midland Elementary School which is part of the Midland Community School District. Principal of the Midland Elementary School is Deanna Martens. Midland Elementary operates under a board of directors. School administrators, school custodial staff, school nurse, and school kitchen personnel help ensure the program is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. Childcare children have access to the school's daily hot breakfast/lunch program. There is an AED on-site. Enrolled children have access to school bus transportation services to and from their wrap-round childcare/preschool day.

Since the last review, the program obtained a new combined director/on-site supervisor named Heather Thomsen. Ms. Thomsen has been with the Midland Community School District for over 3 years, has experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. The program's management team (Ms. Martens, Ms. Thomsen) is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as the program's own policies and procedures.

Midland Elementary continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, has a place to display children's accomplishments (including artwork) for families to enjoy, offers regular newsletters, and utilizes technological communication resources.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. It shall be noted the Midland Elementary School building is currently undergoing an improvement project. As a result, leeway is being granted during the interim for the childcare to use a substitute room and a more condensed outdoor space until project completion in spring 2025. The temporary childcare room is arranged well. Furnishings and supplies are child accessible, in good repair and organized. Curriculum incorporates center play experiences, literacy activities, outdoor fun, science/hands-on activities, teacher inspired ideas, and compliments preschool curriculum.

Midland Elementary partners well with those throughout the community including the local school district, early access persons, local businesses, ECI, CCR&R, and health professionals.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study include back to school and the fall season. Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. imaginative play options, building supplies, books, puzzles, sensory) that encourage innovative play. Activities observed were many including bus evacuation practice, center play experiences (e.g. puzzles, imaginative grocery market, small group book reading, light table, block building), and morning nap/quiet rest break. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals, hallway restroom break) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, engaging children in much meaningful discussion, utilizing positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure staff (DH) physical is documented on required form 470-5152 and placed into respective staff file upon receipt.

Continue to ensure two food groups are offered for all snacks to be credible.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.