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

Name of Center: NEICAC-Cresco Head Start **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18224

Street: 1135 Canterbury **City:** Cresco Iowa **Zip** 52136 **County:** Howard

Mailing Address: PO Box 487, Decorah, IA, 52136

Director's Name: Sharon Burke **Phone Number:** 563-547-2459

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

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2023

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: 12-11-2020

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: 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	20	0	20
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:** 09-26-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/25/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to NEICAC-Cresco Head Start. I met with Carrie Kostohryz, the lead teacher and on-site supervisor. She has a BA in elementary and early childhood education. Ms. Kostohryz started with Head Start in August 2013 and has been at the Cresco site since August 2018. Her co-teachers are Tina Onsager and Angie Kennedy and Kim Holmes. Sharon Burke is the director of the early childhood programs administered by Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation. Her office is in the administration office in Decorah. Lisa Milder is the program manager. Valerie LNU is the family worker.

Cresco Head Start Center is in the Cresco Early Childhood Center. It operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm and serves preschool children. The program can provide wraparound services and be open from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. There are currently 18 children enrolled.

The Head Start Program operates out of one classroom. An inspection of the room was completed. The room was within ratio during the visit. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is 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. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computer, art, dramatic play, 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.

There are two child-sized sinks in the classroom and one adult-sized sink in the room. Procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in the room with two toilets. Cots are used to nap.

The program uses a variety of resources to prepare lesson plans. They use Creative Curriculum and the GOLD assessment tool. They also complete Brigance assessments and ASQ-SE assessments. They also 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. The classroom has a parent board and parents are provided a monthly newsletter to inform them of studies, activities and special dates. There is a projector in the room.

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. 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 in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram was posted by the main program door and outdoor exit. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

The Head Start Program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack are served. Breakfast and snack are provided by Head Start and lunch is contracted out to Howard-Winneshiek Community School and delivered to the center. Head Start staff members have access to a complete kitchen and are responsible for cleanup and dishwashing. There is a dishwasher in the room. Menus were posted. Allergies are confidentially posted. There is a small refrigerator in the room and a refrigerator in the staff break room and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program is using Oxivir Tb to sanitize toys and classroom materials and SaniDate is used 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 October 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection. There are no gas burning appliances. A carbon monoxide detector is not necessary, but there is some located in the hallways of building. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/11/20.

The parent information is in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously present. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Head Start children share a fenced in outdoor play area with the childcare center. It is a large naturalistic play area. There is a hill built into this area that has two slides. There is a large sandbox, a rock path and concrete path for riding toys, a stage for the children to perform on, a music center, balance beams, sensory center and a large shade shelter. There are flower and vegetable gardens and trees provide shade. Picnic tables are available. There is a portable sink in the area.

I observed the classroom outside on the playground. Staff members were moving around the space interacting with children and offering them choices. The encouraged the children to use their imaginations. The children were enjoying looking for grasshoppers. Staff members were patient. They used positive redirection when necessary and were nurturing when a child became upset. They talked with children about sharing and about communicating their feelings to solve problems. The children appeared comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Kostohryz states Head Start is good at helping families with anything they need. Not only in the classroom, but also in the home. For example, they have helped with utilities. The program also offers wrap around care before and after the core preschool hours.

Ms. Kostohryz states they do an awesome job of working with AEA when they identify needs for children. This allows family to get help in their homes.

Ms. Kozohryz states parents are good about bringing their concerns to the teachers. Not concerns for the classroom, but for situations the children may be experiencing at home.

The program is in a secured building and there is a camera in the classroom.

Ms. Kostohryz states the corporate office is great to work with. They know the newest things in education and provide them with great trainings. They learn the best way to teach the children they serve.

Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. This allows teachers to involve the parents in the program. There are several visual cues in the classroom for PBIS.

The children who are four years old and older can ride the public-school bus to school.

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

The children receive hearing, vision, speech and dental screenings.

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.