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

Name of Center: Little Huskies North Preschool **Enrollment:** 13 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 39619

Street: 1726 N John Wayne Dr **City:** Winterset Iowa **Zip** 50273 **County:** Madison

Mailing Address: 1726 N John Wayne Dr, Winterset, IA, 50273

Director's Name: Joel Lamb (pending) **Phone Number:** 515-462-1208

On-Site Supervisor(s): Daina McKeever **E-Mail:** jlamb@maturaia.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-12-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-30-2023

Comments : State inspections are due every three years.

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	0	0	45	0	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 09-16-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 9/12/24. The on-site supervisor was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Little Huskies North Preschool used to be called Winterset Head Start and also Pretend Kindergarten. The two programs combined and changed their name in the late Summer/early Fall of 2012. The program is non-profit and owned by Matura Action Corporation. Children served are three to five years of age. Classes are held Monday - Thursday during the school year. Children attend 7:45am - 3:00pm. Three year old children typically leave at 11:30am although some three year old children remain for full day programming. The program utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teachings. The Gold Assessment is also used.

The previous director retired prior to the start of this school year. The new pending director is Joel Lamb. Joel will need to send the director qualifications form sent to him to this consultant and another consultant who also oversees Matura Head Start programs. The on-site supervisor is Daina McKeever. Daina has her CDA and has been with the program for several years. Daina is working towards a BA degree in education.

The program uses a main preschool classroom. There is a second classroom that is used sparingly, but mostly just the main classroom is used.

During the visit, children were observed outside on the playground. Staff were spaced out and interacting with children and supervising their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program participates in the food program (CACFP).

A dietitian also reviews all menus/meals.

Staff meetings are held weekly. On-site supervisors of the different Matura Head Start programs meet monthly.

Parents receive a monthly newsletter. There are two parent-teacher conferences a year and two school visits. Parents also

received weekly sheets for their child's daily activities. Parents are also encouraged to visit the program and participate in their children's activities. The program tries yearly to implement a parent committee.
Communication with parents is stressed.

The program has their own website (Matura Action Corporation).

There is a secure entrance into the preschool area of the building. The center has security cameras with video surveillance of the classroom and surrounding building.

The program uses a computer tracking system for child and staff files (Child Plus).

The program utilizes CCR&R, AEA, and other community resources on a regular/as needed basis. The center has established good relationships with other community businesses, including the local library who comes to the center monthly to read to children. A conservation person also visits the center monthly.

The program participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The on-site supervisor is very organized.

The program provides free dental and vision screening for children.

Staff get more than the minimum required annual professional development training.

The program has implemented a "taste experience" where children get to try different type of food throughout the school year.

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

109.6(1): Centers with multiple sites have a qualified director or on-site supervisor at all sites. Information on the director's qualifications is submitted to consultant prior to employment and is sufficient to make a determination. Center director meets qualifications or is "qualifiable" with a plan established to meet qualifications.
A new director was hired prior to the start of the new school year. However, this information was not known by the Department and the licensing consultants until the day of the visit. THE DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS FORM AS WELL AS INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR ROLE IN I-POWER WAS EMAILED TO THE NEW PENDING DIRECTOR AS WELL AS THE ON-SITE SUPERVISOR AFTER THE VISIT CONCLUDED.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed on 1/26/23. The center had some issues with getting below the 4.0 cutoff so because of this, they will stay on an every two year radon testing plan for now. Another test in the two classrooms will be due in 1/2025.

The furnace was last inspected last week (week of 9/2/24 per the on-site supervisor and business manager, but they are still waiting for the invoice from the company that did the inspection.

It was previously noted that the center usually only take two field trip a school year. Parents are responsible for getting their own child to the field trip destination and/or the program will take the town trolley.

I - Power was again discussed at the visit.\

This consultant's most current posting was emailed to the program after the visit concluded. The program had an older version posted.

Current and the previous year's inspection forms should be kept on site.

The program needs a copy of a court order for one child enrolled.

As stated above, the new director will have to complete the Director Qualifications form and send it to this consultant and another consultant overseeing Matura Head Start programs to ensure this person meets qualifications.

*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.