Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sioux Center Head Start

Provider No.: 30218

Address: 1124 7th Ave NE, Sioux Center, IA, 51250

County: Sioux

Director's Name: Kendra Rensink

On-Site Supervisor: Itzel Salas

Phone Number: 7127223157

E-Mail: schs@midsioux.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/17/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/03/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday		8:30 AM to 1:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit and the Sioux Center HeadStart and was able to speak with Itzel Solas, onsite supervisor. Ms. Salas has her CDA and 8 years working with Head Start Program. She also has an associate's degree in early childhood. Sioux Center Head Start is a non-profit program administered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. The program is housed in one room of the Preschool Learning Center in Sioux Center. The program operates Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm and 8:30am to 1:00pm on Fridays. The program serves children ages 3 to 5 years of age. There are 20 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 17 children present.

All areas of the program were observed including classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This center utilizes the High Scope curriculum in conjunction with the GOLD assessment system to support early childhood development. The High Scope curriculum is a research-based early childhood education approach that emphasizes active participatory learning, where children have direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, and events.
The classroom environment was colorful and inviting, creating a welcoming atmosphere for children. A daily schedule of activities was clearly posted. Educational materials and visual aids were displayed throughout the room, including colors, shapes, the five senses, a globe, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet. Staff were observed actively engaging with children in a variety of ways: assisting with activities, conversing with them throughout the visit, leading group exercises, reinforcing classroom rules, participating in play, joining children at the table during meals, and reading stories aloud. observed an art project where children painted gourds, an activity that supported the development of fine motor skills while reinforcing color recognition and basic counting concepts. Teachers were highly engaged and demonstrated strong skills in redirecting children's behavior in a positive and effective manner. The classroom featured a

variety of learning centers designed to actively engage children in educational exploration.
Breakfast and lunch are prepared by the Appletree Early Childhood Center's kitchen staff. This center is located just next door to head start. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Center participates in the CACFP program. 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. When I arrived the children and staff were outside, and the first aid kit was with them.

Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test was completed and within normal range. Annual heating inspection was completed. The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean, well-organized, and thoughtfully maintained, contributing to a safe and welcoming environment for children.

The center features a spacious, fenced-in playground that is shared with the preschool program. All playground equipment is surrounded by poured rubber surfacing to enhance safety. A monthly inspection is conducted to ensure the area remains in good condition. The playground offers ample shade and includes a variety of engaging equipment such as slides, climbing structures, swings, a playhouse, and tricycles. Sioux Center Schools assist with playground maintenance. Additionally, the sandbox is thoughtfully designed with raised sides and a roof to protect the sand from the elements.

Head Start bus transports children in Sioux Center only. Staff files are located at the main office and will be viewed at a later date.

Goals are to increase their IQ4K's level

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

One of the program’s strengths is the strong relationship staff maintain with families, working diligently to support both the child’s needs and those of their family. Itzel, the family advocate, also provides valuable support to Spanish-speaking families through her bilingual communication skills.

Staff are highly engaged and demonstrate strong skills in using redirection techniques to support positive behavior

The center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

Center does two home visits a year and has other resources to assist the families of the children they serve

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please enter all staff's credentials in IPOWER including CPR-First Aid and mandatory reporting certificates.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

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Date: 10/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.