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

Name of Center: Unity Head Start **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30155

Street: 1901 Unity Ave **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51105 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 2700 Leech Ave, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Rachel Ostermyer **Phone Number:** 712-224-7389

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alicia Ivory **E-Mail:** rostermyer@caasiouxland.org, cbeatty@caasiouxland.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-29-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-18-2021

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

Date Inspected: 06-09-2022

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	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 04-30-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I completed an unannounced visit on 04/29/25 and was able to meet with visited on-site supervisor/lead teacher Alicia Ivory. Ms Ivory has her associate's degree in early childhood with a substitute license and 9 years' experience working with children. Unity Headstart is in the Unity Elementary School. This program is part of the Iowa Preschool Initiative. Their hours of operation are Mondays 8:30am to 2:30pm, and Tuesday thru Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm. Families drop off and pick up at a separate door from the rest of the school. The program serves children ages 4-5 years old.

If you are not a parent, you gain access to the site by going to the front door of the school and there is a buzzer system. You are then let into the building by school personnel. I received a visitor pass upon showing my identification.

Prior to entering the classroom, I was able to observe all the necessary postings that were located near the door that the program utilizes for pick up and drop offs.

There are 18 children enrolled in the program. At the time of my visit there were 16 children present. I observed the daily schedule of actives as well as the menu. There was also a chart listing a small chore for the children as two young ladies were responsible for holding the door to the playground for outside recess.
There were many things 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. There are also visual aids with the picture of the activity and the word spelled out.

Staff at this program are very engaging. They were frequently giving positive reinforcement and positive redirection. I observed breakfast time and staff members were sitting at the tables with the children during meals having conversations with the children at each table. The program brushes teeth after breakfast and lunch and today used a song about bruising their teeth. All the children were very engaged and excited about learning.

The center utilizes the High Scope Curriculum Gold in their teachings. Staff files are located at the main office and have been reviewed earlier this year. The refrigerator is clean and keeps a proper temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted. All meals are provided through the Sioux City Schools and are free for these students.

Medication is stored in a lock box out of reach of the children. There are no students currently taking any medication. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month at the visit. Good sanitary procedures are followed. The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained.

The center has a fenced-in playground next to the school. The playground has tether balls, musical equipment, paint board and climbing equipment. The program does not use the climbing structure that has slides as it is not age appropriate for the age of children.
In the area that Headstart utilizes there are rubber cushion squares around the equipment. Monthly playground inspection

completed. Shade is available on the playground.

The center's discipline practices consist of talking to the children, PBIS, Tucker Turtle, redirection and giving the children choices. Tucker Turtle gives the children directions to take a break, and restart should they be having a bad moment.

Ms. Ivory has met her goal of last year which was being organized. Her files are very detailed and up to date.

Ms. Ivory's goals include continuing to learn her role as the onsite supervisor.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center provides a monthly newsletter to parents.

The center has two home visits a year with families as well as two parent-teacher conferences a year with families.

Children are provided dental, vision, and hearing screenings.

The center participates in the preschool initiative project.

This center has access to other services to access children who may be having some difficulties so that a plan can be made to help the child adjust.

The center has a website and Facebook page.

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.