

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

Name of Center: Sac County Head Start **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 34173

Street: 1408 Robbins St **City:** Sac City **Iowa** **Zip** 50583 **County:** Sac

Mailing Address: PO Box 427, Carroll, IA, 51401

Director's Name: Tonya Weber **Phone Number:** 712-662-6294

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kimberly Peterson **E-Mail:** tweber@newopp.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-11-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** 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: 03-29-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other 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			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 02-22-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An announced annual visit was made to the Sac County Head Start program on 02-11-25 where I met with lead teacher Kimberly Peterson. Kimberly became the lead teacher at the start of the 2018-2019 school year and has a Bachelor degree in early education. The program is located in a single classroom in the Kid's World Daycare Center in Sac City. While the program does share some facilities with the daycare it is operated independently and is overseen by a separate board of directors with Tanya Weber as the executive director. The program does have a separate entrance which is locked once the program begins operation for the day. The program provides preschool programming only serving children that are 4 years of age. There are currently 16 children enrolled in the program served by 3 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The layout, design, and programming remains the same as in prior reports. The classroom has two entrances with an exterior entrance, and an interior entrance that opens directly to the child care center. All entry/exit doors opened easily and freely, and were clear of obstruction. The space was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to maintenance or design. Restrooms and sinks are accessed directly from the classroom and additional sinks are located in the classroom space that allow for hand washing, and food preparation/drinking water. Windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and can be opened for ventilation. The room is divided into a variety of activity centers through the use of low shelves, furniture, and play structures. The arrangement does not create any blind areas, and the teacher work areas were reduced to provide more programming space for the children. Each center was observed to have a good supply of toys and materials that were in good repair, and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum is posted.

The program was just beginning when I arrived and good interactions were observed with the teachers greeting each child and helping them settle into the day. The teachers do make use of positive behavioral support techniques such as responding to one child that was refusing to join the group after arriving. The teachers continued to review the classroom expectations, offer acceptable behavioral choices, and encourage the child to join the group. This approach was very effective in that after a few minutes the child did comply and join the class. The teachers did follow the planned schedule and curriculum with moving through arrival and self-directed play, breakfast, and then to a teacher lead group learning activity. Each teacher used calm and encouraging tones, and were very nurturing and enthusiastic throughout the time of the visit.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit with the teachers ensuring that the children washed their hands before meals, after restroom use, and other times they became soiled. This included one child being sent back to re-wash their hands after touching the floor before eating breakfast. Following breakfast the center did have children brush their teeth to practice good oral hygiene. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers sanitizing tables both before and after meal service. Chemical cleaners, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children. A first aid kit is located in an area where it is readily available but not accessible to the children and had items necessary to address most common first aid.

Meals are contracted from the daycare and are served in the classroom family style. As noted breakfast was served during

the time of the visit and consisted of pancakes, pineapple, and milk which was consistent with the planned menu. A small refrigerator is maintained in the classroom and is used to store small amounts of milk and other items. A thermometer was present to ensure good cold holding temperatures are maintained. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. Foods were covered when being transferred from the kitchen to the classroom. Measured scoops are used to ensure a full serving is provided. The teachers do sit with the children when eating meals to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

The program makes use of the daycare playground facilities but schedules use for times that are separate from the daycare children. While the Head Start teachers do inspect the playground it is the responsibility of the daycare center to maintain the playground and any issues identified are addressed in the licensing evaluation for the daycare. The Head Start program addresses any identified issues by limiting the children from using those aspects of the playground.

All required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation and certificates. All child files were reviewed and found to be in full compliance including the center having received updated physicals for children that had a valid physical at enrollment but which expired shortly after. Record of fire and tornado drills were available and current. All other inspection logs and certificates are maintained by the daycare and again are reviewed during the licensing visit for that program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program also seeks to implement best practice recommendations through accreditation by NAEYC.

The program has also sought to enhance their connection with the community by integrating opportunities into the planned curriculum. Examples include having a librarian come to the center to read and present other activities, and going to a local nursing home to engage in activities with the residents there one day each month.

Kimberly identified that she had new assistants in the class, Jessica Carlson, and Shelly Peterson, who have been very positive and supportive additions to the class.

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

None Cited

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the non-licensing 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.