

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

Name of Center: Webster City Head Start **Enrollment:** 19 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18092

Street: 1610 Collins St **City:** Webster City **Iowa** **Zip** 50595 **County:** Hamilton

Mailing Address: 214 S 13th St, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Michelle Carden **Phone Number:** 515-832-3285

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tara Zakzer- lead teacher **E-Mail:** mcarden@yourhs-ehs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-14-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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			24		24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 04-09-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Webster City Head Start program on 04-08-24 where I met with Tara Zakzer who became the lead teacher at the start of the 2022-23 school year. The program is operated as one of several classrooms under YOUR Head Start in Fort Dodge with Michelle Carden as the executive director. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold with extensive experience, formal education, and on-going professional development in early childhood care and education. The program is located in a renovated medical center in Webster City. While it is a multiple use facility the program is secured from other businesses that are present. The program provides preschool programming only serving children that are 3-4 years of age. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout and design of the facilities and classroom remain the same as in prior visits. The classroom space is a large open room that has been divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural light and a view of the outdoors. There are two emergency exits providing secondary egress from the classroom with one opening directly to the outdoor playground area, and the other to an interior hallway both of which opened easily and freely. Restroom facilities with child sized toilets and a changing station are located directly off the primary programming space. A second handicapped accessible restroom is located near the entry and office area. Additional sinks are located in the classroom space to facilitate hand washing. There is a laundry room, and additional meeting rooms which are available but not used by the center. Activity centers were arranged so that the children had ample room to move and play without creating any blind areas.

Activity centers included options such as dramatic play, library, large and small manipulatives, math, science, art/crafts, and group learning. The toys and materials present were appropriate to the ages of the children attending the center and were in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted. The posted curriculum focus theme was Signs with additional focus on specific number and letter learning concepts. The materials in the classroom were reflective of this theme such as books in the library center, and a variety of small playset signs in the experience table. Good interactions were observed with the staff being actively engaged with the children implementing the planned schedule and curriculum. Good behavior management practices were observed during the visit. The center uses a general approach of "Green" and "Red" behaviors to help the children identify positive and negative choices. During the visit the teachers used proactive techniques of routines and reminders, positive recognition, and providing the children with suggestions of positive activity choices. While there were some minor behavioral issues such as children climbing on furniture these were quickly addressed with simple redirection.

The program has a kitchen and meals and snacks are prepared on site. A copy of the planned menu is maintained and posted on a parent notice board. The menu does identify a good variety of nutritious meal options. Breakfast was served during the time of the visit and consisted of cereal, milk, and 100% juice. Good food handling and storage practices were observed on the day of my visit. Meals are brought to the tables in covered dishes where they are served family style in the classroom with the teachers eating at the tables with the children.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed on the day of my visit. The center does need to review hand washing practices. On the day of the visit the teachers did direct the children to wash their hands upon arrive and

immediately before breakfast service however several of the children were observed to just get their hands wet without using soap. Supervision to ensure that the children not only wash their hands but do so in an effective manner should be provided. In addition the teachers were also observed to not wash their hands immediately prior to meal service, nor were food service gloves used when assisting the children with serving. Some of the children did have diagnosed allergies and plans were present for those children. The center has a first aid kit which was labeled and observed to have adequate materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Items that could be a safety risk to the children are stored in areas where they are not readily accessible. Good cleaning practices were observed on the day of my visit with the table sanitized prior to the meal service, and when children were not present. There were no children taking any medications on the day of my visit but the center does have policies in place if needed in the future.

The center playground space is fully enclosed by fencing. A pre-school age climbing structure, and other play equipment was present. The equipment was observed to generally be in good repair however there was one bolt connecting the slide to the platform structure that was loose and needed to be tightened. This did not create a safety concern such as the slide pulling away from the platform, or sagging when weight was applied that would require the component to not be used but maintenance is needed. The center uses an AstroTurf product over loose fill for fall surfacing. There is also a paved area, and grassy area where children can play. Shade is provided by the building, and awnings.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents. Staff files are maintained at the YOUR Head Start central office and are reviewed for all centers in a separate visit annually and any issues identified are addressed at that time. The children's files were reviewed and contain all required information. The inspection logs for evacuation drills, and playground were available for review, but Radon testing, and Fuel Burning Appliance inspections are maintained on an electronic file share that Tara was not certain how to access. I was able to contact the program main office and was informed they are maintained on an electronic file share that each site location has access to. Information was provided that the last radon testing had been conducted in 2023 but that the level results had not been entered and those would be located and forwarded.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

The program has been very stable over the past year with Tara and the other assistants returning. This did result in the classroom being very focused and the teachers being very at ease in working with the children.

The center is planning to make changes for the coming year regarding storm sheltering practices in which they will make use of the basement area of the building rather than the interior restroom spaces of the classroom.

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

109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center. Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity. After diapering a child. Before leaving the rest room either with a child or by themselves. Before and after administering nonemergency first aid if gloves are not worn. After handling animals or cleaning cages.

-- Staff did not wash their hands immediately before meal service

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed: Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity. After using the restroom or being diapered. After handling animals.

-- Children were observed to wash their hands in an ineffective manner with several not using soap.

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 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.