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

Name of Center: Eagle Grove Head Start **Enrollment:** 12 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50856

Street: 121 N Iowa Ave **City:** Eagle Grove Iowa **Zip** 50533 **County:** Wright

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

Director's Name: Michelle Carden **Phone Number:** 515-603-6116

On-Site Supervisor(s): Beth Lukes **E-Mail:** mcarden@yourhs-ehs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-14-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 10-06-2022

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 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			22		22
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-15-2024

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 Eagle Grove Head Start program on 10-14-24 where I met with Lead Teacher Beth Lukes. Rhonda took over the lead teacher position at the start of the 2024 school year and is well qualified for the the position based on her experience, formal education, and on-going professional development. The program is located in a free standing building in Eagle Grove. The center provides preschool programming only serving children 3-4 years of age. There are currently 12 children enrolled in the program served by 2 teachers and a cook. All aspects of the program subject to DHS Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classroom remains the same as in prior visit. The building has a large open classroom space with restrooms located off the main programming area, a kitchen, storage, and office space. There were no issued noted with regard to construction but there were some maintenance issues noted. Upon arrival there was a noticeable odor, and the windows were open resulting in the classroom being cold to the point that the teachers and children commented about it. The room was measured to have a temperature of 64 deg. F. When speaking with Beth and inquiring if the windows were open due to the odor which smelled of sewer gas Beth stated that it was not but rather was due to concerns for high radon levels. Beth stated that the center did recently install a radon mitigation system but recent testing post installation identified levels that were still above the allowable 4.0 piCu/L with a measure level in excess of 21 piCu/L. Beth stated that they have contacted the system install to check that system. Beth stated that she is not certain what is causing the sewer gas odor and the center has contacted a service to come and clean the pipes. In addition to the main entry there is a secondary exit providing direct access to the playground that serves as an emergency exit. The exits from the building were maintained to be clear of obstruction but the secondary exit does open onto the playground which is fully fenced and the fence gates had padlocks engaged. The center was informed that they needed to remove the locks when the building is occupied and should contact the fire marshal to determine if there was sufficient distance within the fenced area to safely evacuate from the building. Restrooms located directly accessible from the classroom, and also serve as emergency tornado shelter. Windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Sinks are located in the restrooms and also directly accessible from the classroom programming space. Mixer units have been installed to prevent scalding. The classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The placement is such that it does not create any blind areas and provides the children with ample room to move and play.

Available activity centers remain the same and include group learning, large/small manipulatives, sand/water play, art/crafts, reading, puzzles, math/science, and dramatic play. Each activity center was observed to have a good variety of toys and materials present which were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted and the center is using the Creative Curriculum. The planned curriculum on the day of my visit was Trees, and Beth stated that she also includes a daily focus on Feelings. The materials in the activity centers, and the lessons presented did reflect this theme. Good interactions were observed with the teachers actively presenting the planned curriculum and activities. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers making use of positive support methods of recognizing appropriate behaviors, redirecting negative behaviors, and reviewing expectations when transitioning activities. During the visit one child was observed to not have interest in the lesson being presented and instead began to play in one of the activity centers. The staff did not require the child to rejoin the group and

let the child continue as long as the child was not engaging in inappropriate or dangerous play. The teachers did have a focus on safety in that they would identify if the children were engaging in an activity that could result in them or a peer getting hurt and redirecting them to appropriate behavior.

Good health and safety practices were observed with the teacher ensuring that the children washed their hands and did so in an effective manner. This included both for required activities such as following restroom use and before eating, and other times they became soiled. The center does maintain a first aid kit which is located in an area where it was readily available but not accessible to the children. The kit was observed to have a good supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. There were no children taking any medications but the center does have policies in place regarding medications and allergies should it become necessary in the future. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a health or safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. Staff did wait for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. The center also engages in other practices that help children to practice good health routines such as brushing their teeth following meals.

The center does have a playground with a climbing structure and other activity centers. The climbing structure was generally observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. There was one off-set rung climber element on the structure where the screws connecting the unit to the platform were loose allowing the pole to shift. While this could result in a child losing their balance it was not loose to the point that there was a risk of the pole pulling away from the platform such that the child would need to be prohibited from using that element but maintenance is needed. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing. An awning is present to provide a shaded play area. The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing which was in good repair. As noted the fence does have locks on the gates which do need to be disengaged given that fire evacuation is through the playground. Additional toys and materials are available for the children to play with.

The center has kitchen facilities and all meal and snack preparation occurs on site. Menus were present and identified a good variety of nutritious food options. Good food storage and handling practices were observed with all food items placed in air tight sealable food grade containers. Thermometers were present in refrigeration and freezer units to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. Breakfast was served during the time of the visit. The teachers do sit and eat with the children during meals and snacks to provide supervision and model good eating habits. Meals are served family style with the children serving themselves, and they also assist in clearing their plates.

All required notices and postings were present and in an area readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. The center does need to have a printed copy of emergency contact numbers for the children which should be posted next to the center phone, and also kept in the first aid kit. While the center does have a electronic file maintenance system these do need to be printed in hard copy format in the event that electronic systems are not available in an emergency. Staff files are reviewed during an annual review at the program main office and any concerns are addressed at that time. All required inspection logs and certificates were current and available.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is also accredited by NAEYC which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

The program does have a very strong focus on curriculum and has maintained a high level of consistency with Beth moving from being an assistant teacher last year to being the lead teacher this year.

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

109.10(13): Field trip emergency numbers: Phone numbers for each child shall be taken by staff when transporting to and from school, and on field trips and non-center-sponsored activities away from the premises.
-- A printed copy of emergency contact numbers for children was not present.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The classroom was measured to be at 64 deg. F. due to the windows being open to ventilate radon and sewer gases. The plumbing and radon mitigation system need to be serviced so that they are in good working order, and windows can be closed to maintain temperatures between 65 and 75 deg. F.

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.