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

Name of Center: Eagle Grove Head Start **Enrollment:** 19 **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): Rhonda Bitner **E-Mail:** mcarden@yourhs-ehs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-17-2023

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:** 10-24-2023

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 10-17-23 where I met with Lead Teacher Rhonda Bitner. Rhonda 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 19 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 or maintenance. In addition to the main entry there is a secondary exit providing direct access to the playground that serves as an emergency exit. The bathrooms 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.

Activity centers 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 Fall & Leaves. The materials in the activity centers, and the lessons presented did reflect this theme. Good interactions were observed with the teachers spaced through out the center to provide leading small group activities and to provide supervision. Good behavior management techniques were also observed with the teachers making use of positive support methods of recognizing appropriate behaviors, redirecting negative behaviors, and reviewing expectations when transitioning activities. The program also uses routines and other structural programming techniques such as setting group size and time limits for activity center play.

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 such as when blowing their nose. 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 does have a playground with a climbing structure and other activity centers. The climbing structure was

observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. 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, and while the fence does have locks on the gates these were 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 has changed to doing all meal and snack preparation 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. The program was just cleaning up from breakfast when I arrived. 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. 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 does seek to exceed licensing standards and implement best practice recommendations and is accredited by NAEYC.

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

None Cited.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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: Radon testing results showed high levels of exposure with a measured level of 17.1 +\- 1.4 piCu/L. This is well above the allowable cutoff level of 4.0 piCu/L. The center will need to implement a plan for mitigation and can seek assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services, (https://hhs.iowa.gov/radon)

*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.