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

Name of Center: NEICAC-Cresco Head Start **Enrollment:** 14 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18224

Street: 1135 Canterbury **City:** Cresco Iowa **Zip** 52136 **County:** Howard

Mailing Address: PO Box 487, Decorah, IA, 52136

Director's Name: Sharon Burke **Phone Number:** 563-547-2459

On-Site Supervisor(s): Carrie Kostohryz **E-Mail:** sburke@neicac.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-23-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 08-05-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-25-2024

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: X Year-round 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 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/23/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to NEICAC-Cresco Head Start. I met with Carrie Kostohryz, the lead teacher and on-site supervisor. She has a BA in elementary and early childhood education. Ms. Kostohryz started with Head Start in August 2013 and has been at the Cresco site since August 2018. Her co-teachers are Angie Kennedy and Kim Holmes. Sharon Burke is the director of the early childhood programs administered by Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation. Her office is in the administration office in Decorah. Lisa Milder is the program manager. Amy Hershberger is the family worker.

Cresco Head Start Center is in the Cresco Early Childhood Center. It operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm and serves preschool children. The program can provide wraparound services before and after the core preschool hours from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. There are currently 14 children enrolled.

The Head Start Program operates out of one classroom. An inspection of the room was completed. The room was within ratio during the visit. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computer, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

There are two child-sized sinks in the classroom and one adult-sized sink in the room. Procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in the room with two toilets. Cots are used to nap.

The program uses a variety of resources to prepare lesson plans. They use Creative Curriculum and the GOLD assessment tool. They complete Brigance assessments and ASQ-SE assessments. They use Handwriting Without Tears, Second Step, Character Counts and Skill Streaming. Activities are planned around studies. They also participate in the Farm to Early Care and Education program. Each month they focus on a new food. Each week they focus on math, health, science, social studies, literacy, music and movement and nutrition. Each lead teacher prepares their own lesson plans. Each classroom has a parent board and parents are provided a monthly newsletter to inform them of studies, activities and special dates.

Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. They teach a new PBIS topic/lesson each week in the classroom and information is sent home to parents so they can utilize the tools at home as well. The program is also using solution kits in the classroom. This provides children with choices to try and solve problems on their own. Parents can sign up to use the Ready Rosie app which provides activities for the family to do at home. Head Start is also doing a Second Step lesson each day for the social/emotional health of the children each day. Head Start has family workers that go to homes to work with families and offer support and community resources.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram was posted by the main program door. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

The Head Start Program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack are served. Breakfast and snack are provided by Head Start and lunch is contracted out to Howard-Winneshiek Community School and delivered to the classroom. Head Start staff members have access to a complete kitchen and are responsible for cleanup and dishwashing. There is a dishwasher in the classroom. Menus were posted. Allergies are confidentially posted. There is a small refrigerator in the room and a refrigerator in the staff break room and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program is using Oxivir Tb to sanitize toys and classroom materials and SaniDate is used to sanitize the food tables. Each product has a one-minute dwell time.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection. There are no gas burning appliances. A carbon monoxide detector is not necessary, but there is some located in the hallways of the building. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 03/25/24.

The parent information is in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously present. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Head Start children share a fenced in outdoor play area with the childcare center. It is a large naturalistic play area. There is a hill that has two slides built into it. There is a large sandbox, a rock path and concrete path for riding toys, a stage for the children to perform on, a music center, balance beams, sensory center and a large shade shelter with benches. There are flower and vegetable gardens and trees provide shade.

Children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed one staff file on 09/05/24. It was in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

I observed the classroom outside on the playground. Staff members were spread out on the large playground. Staff members were actively engaged playing group games with the children. They invited children who were doing other things to join them in games. They kept the children active and encouraged children to try new things. Staff members talked with the children about sharing and taking turns. There was an upset child and a staff member talked with her about her feelings. They took water bottles outside for each child. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. It was a beautiful day and the children were able to be outside for an hour. Staff members stay engaged the entire time. They counted the children as they returned inside.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Kostohryz states parents are really involved with the Head Start program and in their classroom. They try to get parents to come in and do activities and to volunteer.

Ms. Kostohryz states they work with AEA for children with identified needs. Someone is coming in every Tuesday to do room observation.

Ms. Kostohryz states Head Start is good at helping families with anything they need. Not only in the classroom, but also in the home. For example, they have helped with utilities. The program also offers wrap around care before and after the core preschool hours.

The program is in a secured building and there is a camera in the classroom.

Ms. Kostohryz states the corporate office is great to work with. They know the newest things in education and provide them with great trainings. They learn the best way to teach the children they serve.

Head Start uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. This allows teachers to involve the parents in the program. There are several visual cues in the classroom for PBIS.

The children who are four years old and older can ride the public-school bus to school.

The level of education and training of the Head Start staff is exceptional. They exceed what is required to meet DHS licensing standards.

The children receive hearing, vision, speech and dental screenings.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.