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

Name of Center: Loess Hills Head Start **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43967

Street: 1717 Casselman St **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51103 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 2700 Leech Ave, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Rachael Ostermyer **Phone Number:** 712-258-6471

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jana Hair **E-Mail:** rostermyer@caasiouxland.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-24-2024

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 09-09-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-07-2023

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: 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: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 09-27-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited Loess Hills Head Start on 10-24-24 and spoke with Darla Hermelbracht (substitute) as onsite supervisor/lead teacher Jana Hair was not present. Ms. Hair has an Early childhood and is working on her elementary degree.. Ms. Hair has many years of experience working with children at Headstart. Loess Hills Head Start is located in one room of Loess Hills Elementary School. The center is operated by Head Start. This program is part of the Iowa Preschool Initiative. The center operates 8:30am to 2:30pm Monday and 8:30am to 3:30pm Tuesday through Friday. The program serves children ages 3-5 years old. The center has a buzzer by the front door and visitors must be let into the building by staff or school personnel.

There are 14 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 13 children present. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families during this time. The center continues cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, five senses, globe of the world, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, reminding the children about rules, engaging the children in activities, reading stories to the children. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center utilizes the High Scope Curriculum Gold in their teachings.

The center has the following areas throughout the room for the children to explore and learn: library, blocks, writing area, puzzles, house, toys, art, sensory table, cars and a quiet zone. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Children have access to sinks and bathroom. Displayed throughout the room were a feelings chart, classroom jobs, picture schedule for the children, days of the week, shapes, children's artwork and the alphabet. In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily available and visible to parents and visitors. Staff files will be reviewed at the program central office at a later date and any issues identified will be addressed at that time.

The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted. Breakfast, lunch and snacks is provided through the Sioux City Schools. The center participates in the CACFP program. Any extra snacks were stored properly in the room. Medication is stored in a lock box out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication although at this time they do not have anyone needing meds. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test was not available at the time of the visit nor was the annual heating inspection. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place. The center has a fenced-in playground next to the school. The playground has slides, drums, balance pods and climbing wall. Rubber tiles are around the equipment. Monthly playground inspection completed. The center does not transport the children.

Strengths of the program is that staff have a good relationship with kids/parents, and work hard with the kids to learn how to play and socialize with others.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center uses High Scope and Gold for their curriculum.

Center has child size furniture throughout the room.

Picture schedule of daily activities for the children.

Regional office sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

Center does home visits twice a year.

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

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended to update the licensing binder yearly.

The program needs to email consultant by 10-30-24 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.