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

Name of Center: NICAO Head Start-Clarksville **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22878

Street: 219 N Mathers St **City:** Clarksville Iowa **Zip** 50619 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 221 N Mathers St, Clarksville, IA, 50619

Director's Name: Trina Cox **Phone Number:** 319-278-4213

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alecia Feckers (Lead Teacher) Karen Krumwiede (supervisor) **E-Mail:** tcox@nicao-online.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-16-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 03-06-2023

Comments : Compliance dated 04-13-23

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	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-18-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to NICAO-Clarksville Head Start in Clarksville on 04-16-24 where I met with Tammie Eddis who is the associate teacher as Alecia Feckers, the lead teacher was not in on the day of the visit. Alecia took over as the lead teacher in 2022 and is well qualified for the position based on her education and experience in early childhood education. Karen Krumwiede is the area supervisor. The program operates out of a free standing building which was built specifically for the Head Start program and they have been located here for over twenty years. The center provides preschool programming serving 4 year old children only. There are currently 16 children enrolled in the program served by a teacher, and two assistants. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visits.

The general layout and design of the facilities remain the same as in prior visits. The program operates out of one large classroom but a second room that is currently being used as storage is available if needed. A half wall and door separates the classroom from the hallway accessing the rest of the building. Windows provide ample natural lighting, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. There are secondary exits providing direct egress to the playground from both classroom spaces. All exits were observed to be free of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are located just off the classrooms and the staff do provide supervision and assistance as needed. The facilities were observed to be clean. It was reported that the restroom facilities off the main programming classroom were not being used due a child having flushed a toy down the toilet. Tammie stated that a plumber has been contacted but they are waiting on repairs. The main classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, low shelves, and play structures such that the children had ample room to move and play without creating any blind areas.

The center play options remain the same with group learning, dramatic play, large & small manipulatives, art/crafts, discovery, reading, science, and math. Each center was well stocked with materials that are appropriate to the ages of the children present and which were in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted. The curriculum had a learning focus of "Cameras" and the activities and available materials were reflective of that focus. Good interactions were observed during the visit with all teachers being actively engaged with the children. This included eating with them during breakfast, assisting/supervising restroom use, playing with the children, and helping the children with problem solving. Positive behavior management techniques were used with the teachers recognizing positive behavior, using transition planning and redirecting children. During the visit one child was upset about wanting to play outside despite the rainy weather, and not being at the time during the daily schedule. The teachers did work to help the child identify other options, but also allowed the child to just be sad and upset. By giving the child space and the opportunity to sit and be sad the child was able to resolve those feelings and rejoin the group without the situation escalating to a more pronounced behavioral concern.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. During the visit the teachers were observed to assist the children in the restroom as needed, and ensured that the children not only washed their hands but did so in an effective manner. The center did have well developed response plans for children with diagnosed allergies. First aid kits are present in the center and stored in areas where they are available but not accessible to children. The kits were stocked with items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers

enlisting/allowing the children to help when it was appropriate such as wiping tables down with soapy water, but directing children out of the immediate area when using chemical cleaners.

The center does have a full kitchen and meals are prepared onsite. A copy of the planned menu was posted and identified a good variety of nutritious meal options. Good food storage practices were observed for both refrigerated and dry pantry storage. Good food handling practices were observed with the staff wearing food service gloves, and use of covered containers. Meals are served in the classroom family style with the teachers sitting and eating with the children. The kitchen was observed to be clean but it is noted that there was evidence of the center having some issues with insects. This included observing dead insects, and the presence of glue traps. It was confirmed that the center does have a pest control service and based on the observed conditions those services are being effective.

The center has a playground with a climbing structure, paved riding track, and grassy area. The climbing structure and equipment were generally observed to be in good repair. There was one anchor bolt for the green tube slide on the upper right corner of the entry collar that had backed out. This did not result in the slide, or the structure being unstable or unusable but this will need to be monitored and maintenance performed. The fall surfacing consists of a unitary foam rubber surface. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Mature trees provide shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Staff files are maintained at the program central office where they are reviewed annually during a separate visit and any concerns identified are addressed at that time. Child files were reviewed and found to contain all current information. The program handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a Level 4 program out of a possible 5 Level scale. The program is also 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: 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.