

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

Name of Center: Iowa Lakes Head Start **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 30231

Street: 3200 College Dr **City:** Emmetsburg **Iowa** **Zip:** 50536 **County:** Palo Alto

Mailing Address: PO Box 519, Graettinger, IA, 51342

Director's Name: Julie Edwards **Phone Number:** 712-852-5352

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tracy Fischer - Lead Teacher **E-Mail:** imayland@udmo.com dhelget@udmo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-11-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 09-16-2020

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			32		32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 01-19-2023

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 Iowa Lakes Head Start program on 01-11-23 where I met lead teacher Tracy Fischer. Tracey is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor's degree and has been the lead teacher of the center since 2016. This program is located in a free standing building on the Iowa Lakes Community College campus behind the main administration office for the college. The program is operated independently of the college and overseen by a separate board of directors. Julie Edwards is the Executive Program Director for this and several other locations and took over that position in 2018. The program provides preschool programming for children 3-4 years of age, and also provides wrap around daycare services to those children that attend the Head Start class but who's parents are unable to pick them up immediately following the end of that program. There are currently 16 children enrolled in the Head Start class and 8 enrolled in the wrap around daycare program. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed though it is noted that the visit took place during the hours of operation for the Head Start classroom programming.

The layout and design of the classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. The building has two classrooms and both classrooms were observed to be clean and free of any noted safety concerns due to maintenance. One room is used for primary programming of the Head Start class and the other for wrap around daycare programming. Both classrooms have sinks in the room, and restrooms are located in the main programming room. Both rooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has a direct exit to the outdoors, and a third door serves as a primary entrance to the building. Both classrooms have a large open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the use of low shelves, furniture, and play structures. The equipment in each center was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children attending the program.

A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum are posted, and a newsletter is also sent home to inform parents of what the class is working on. The curriculum focus on the day of my visit was a general theme of Clothes and specific learning concepts related to the number 5, and letter E, color Yellow, and Rectangle shape. The children were outside playing when I arrived at the center, then came in for lunch, and then moved to a teacher lead group activity. The teachers do an excellent job of engaging with the children and implementing the planned schedule and curriculum as well as using every opportunity to help the children learn. As an example during the visit while eating lunch the children were asking questions about where the food comes from. The teachers took this opportunity to engage the self-directed curiosity of the children to talk about the various items on the plate explaining that bread is made from wheat which is a grain that is grown, potatoes are also plants which are grown, and ham is from pigs. The teachers also make good use of positive behavior management techniques that include redirection, and recognition of positive behaviors. During the visit there were some children that were having a difficult time following directions but by using these positive approaches the situation did not escalate and the children were able to return to joining the class.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. The teachers did ensure that the children washed their hands following restroom use, and prior to meal service. Good cleaning practices are in place with the teachers waiting for the children to be out of the area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other materials that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas where they are not readily accessible to the children. The center has several well stocked first aid kits which are readily identifiable and out of the immediate reach of the children. A first

aid kit was taken out to the playground when the children were outside.

The center has a small kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. Lunch was being prepared when I arrived and good food handling and storage practices were also observed. A menu was posted and provided a good variety of health meal options. Meals are served family style with the children using measured scoops to serve themselves. The teachers do sit at the tables and eat with the children to model good eating habits and social interactions.

The center has two playground spaces that are used. One playground has a climbing structure and swings, and the other has a large grassy area and play house. The playground with the climbing structure is the space that is primarily used and the equipment was observed to be in good repair. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing but due to snow cover and winter freeze the depth of material could not be assessed. The center will need to review the depth of material in the spring and add or aerate as needed. The other playground is also fenced and Tracy did share that the gate had been damaged within the past couple of days by a snow plow. Tracy stated that the maintenance crew for the facility was aware of the damage. The damaged gate had been removed so that there was no safety concern from the damage. There is a play house and wooden platform structure in this area. There are several large mature trees that provide shade in both areas.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. Staff files will be reviewed at a later date at the program administrative offices and any concerns will be addressed at that time. Child files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation and authorizations. Inspection logs and certificates were all available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program seeks to exceed licensing standards and implement best practice recommendation and 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.