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

Name of Center: Midland Elementary **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47610

Street: 510 3rd Ave North **City:** Oxford Junction Iowa **Zip** 52323 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: PO BOX 109, Wyoming, IA, 52362

Director's Name: Jackie Mitchell **Phone Number:** 319-259-5301

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jackie Mitchell **E-Mail:** dmartens@midland.k12.ia.us, jmitchell@midland.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 09-12-2023

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: 07-26-2022

Comments : Does Comply.

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			30		30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 10-18-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Midland Elementary has been in operation for several years. The program is located inside Midland Elementary School which is part of the Midland Community School District. Midland Elementary is a profit program which operates year-round Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. The program serves preschool-age children. Current enrollment is 18.

Combined director/on-site supervisor of the program is Jackie Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell has been in this position since July, 2019. Ms. Mitchell has over 10 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/12/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Midland Elementary is a well-established childcare program located in a predominantly rural community. The program offers a childcare option to preschool-age children outside of the 4-year-old voluntary statewide preschool program.

The mission of Midland Elementary is "...to provide quality school-age childcare for children and their families through beneficial and stimulating programming..."

Midland Elementary is part of the following website: https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/.

Ownership and management of Midland Elementary has remained consistent. The combined director/on-site supervisor Ms. Mitchell is celebrating over 4 years in the director position. Ms. Mitchell has several years of experience working with children and managing a childcare program. Ms. Mitchell is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Ms. Mitchell is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as the program's own policies and procedures.

Assistant staff are consistent and seasoned. Staff longevity is impressive! One staff reported being employed by the school district for over 18 years with 3 years of employment in the childcare program.

Midland Elementary and the Midland Community School District collaborate well together. The program operates with the support of a board of directors. School administrators, school custodial staff, school nurse, and school kitchen personnel help ensure the program is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. Childcare children have access to the school's daily hot breakfast/lunch program. There is an AED on-site. Enrolled children have access to school bus transportation services to and from their day.

Midland Elementary continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, has a place to display children's accomplishments (including artwork)

for families to enjoy, offers regular newsletters, and utilizes technological communication resources.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Since the last review, the childcare relocated their primary space to one spacious classroom. Some new materials were obtained through a technology grant (e.g. Leap Frog Pads) as well as health and safety grant (e.g. individual child water bottles, first-aid supplies). Furnishings and supplies are child accessible, in good repair and extremely organized. Curriculum incorporates center play experiences (Very unique and well-planned play centers offered to peak child interest!), literacy activities (Clever number/book organization system is quite noteworthy!), outdoor fun, science/hands-on activities, teacher inspired ideas, and much more.

Midland Elementary partners well with those throughout the community including the local school district, early access persons, local businesses, ECI, CCR&R, and health professionals. Midland Elementary has access to many on-site preschool services including speech therapy, occupational therapy, and early childhood screenings (vision and hearing).

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. The program has supplies (e.g. classroom fogger, disinfectant spray) as well as policies and procedures for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included "welcome back" and ice cream shop. Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. imaginative play options, building materials, books, puzzles, sensory) that encourage innovative play. Activities observed were many including outdoor large gross motor play, group music with movement activity (e.g. bear hunt), individual sorting/counting experience, snack, and morning nap/quiet rest break. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please note an administrative change. Total program capacity is 30.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.