Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Midland Elementary

Provider No.: 47610

Address: 510 3rd Ave North, Oxford Junction, IA, 52323

County: Jones

Director's Name: Heather Thomsen

On-Site Supervisor: Heather Thomsen

Phone Number: 3192595340

E-Mail: dmartens@midland.k12.ia.us
hthomsen@midland.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/10/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			30		30
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Midland Elementary has been in operation for several years. Midland Elementary remains located inside the Midland Elementary School which is part of the Midland Community School District. Midland Elementary operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 15 on 9/23/2026.

Combined director/on-site supervisor Heather Thomsen has been in this role since fall 2024. Ms. Thomsen has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 9/23/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in one pristine classroom. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. The program has some access to the outdoor play area and school gymnasium. Foods offered are prepared in the school cafeteria which is inspected by the local health department. Areas of study during this license visit included the fall season. On 9/23/2026, activities observed included a skilled group craft creating a clever owl and center buckets (e.g. uni-blocks, magnetic blocks, animal figurines). One child was overheard joyfully humming as she engaged in activities. Evidence of previous days' work was nicely displayed throughout the classroom and included "All About Me" work and milestone-handprint corn cob crafts. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as build cognitive skills, strengthen emotional intelligence, enhance physical coordination, and encourage the use of social graces. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions observed included clean-up procedures and lunch time rituals. On 9/23/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive redirection when needed and engaging in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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

Midland Elementary is incorporated into the Midland Community School District's website: https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/.

As of 9/23/2026, Midland Elementary continues to be overseen by a board of directors. The program's management team (e.g. school principal, school district HR administration, Ms. Thomsen) continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. This program has a seasoned consistent team of staff who have all been with the program for over 3 years.

On 9/23/2026, Midland Elementary was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining an information area for parent-staff-programming, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Curriculum continues to compliment preschool teachings and incorporate center play experiences, literacy activities, outdoor fun, science/hands-on activities, and teacher inspired ideas.

Midland Elementary continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. There is an AED on-site. On 9/23/2026, staff discussed how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures. Staff also talked about having continued support from their board and the school district (e.g. school kitchen staff, school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team, school nurse) as to daily building and grounds conditions.

Midland Elementary continues to have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are regularly reviewed and updated as needed. Midland Elementary has successfully navigated through flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and 2026 nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

On the outdoor playground, continue to increase areas of shade and places for children to sit and rest when needed (e.g. composite style child picnic tables). Please connect with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund (https://www.iowaccrr.org/child-care-providers/iowa-childcare-funding-opportunities/) designed to support regulatory compliance and quality childcare in Iowa.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with management oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Ms. Thomsen talked about how they are present at the program, utilize school supports, rotate themselves among interactions with children, communicate with families, establish child specific behavior plans when needed, complete written incident reports, send children home when needed, and exercise their required polices for enrollment and disenrollment of children as needed. Licensing and management also talked about resources available through the CCR&R behavioral specialist position.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

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Date: 10/30/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.