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

Name of Center: Emmet County Head Start **Enrollment:** 67 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30265

Street: 315 North 6th Street **City:** Estherville Iowa **Zip** 51334 **County:** Emmet

Mailing Address: 101 Robins Street, Graettinger, IA, 51342

Director's Name: Irene Mayland **Phone Number:** 712-765-1058

On-Site Supervisor(s): Chantel Kloucek **E-Mail:** dhelget@udmo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-02-2024

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: 12-18-2023

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 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		31	71		102
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-12-2024

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 Emmet County Head Start program on 02-02-24 where I met with the On-Site Supervisor, Chantel Kloucek. Chantel is well qualified for the position having been with the Head Start program since 2014. The program is one of several Head Start locations overseen by Upper Des Moines Opportunities where Irene Mayland is the Program Director, and Julie Edwards is the executive director. Irene did announce her retirement which will be effective later this year. The program is located in the old Roosevelt Elementary school in Estherville and is the only occupant of the building. The program provides Head Start (HS) preschool programming for children 3-4 years of age, and Early Head Start (EHS) serving children 2-3 years of age. There are currently 67 children enrolled in the program. The HS program is served in three classrooms by 6 teachers, and the EHS is served in 2 classrooms with 4 teachers. In addition the program has several home consultants, 2 cooks, and other staff who are also present and available to provide assistance if needed. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed.

The program completed renovations during the past year and moved the EHS children to the building which increased the capacity by 31 children. The program occupies five classrooms with 3 for the HS program, 2 for the EHS program, and also makes use of the gymnasium. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns identified due to maintenance. Covers have been installed over radiators in each occupied classroom, hallways, and the gymnasium. Restroom facilities are located off the main hallways and children are escorted to the restrooms as needed for the HS program. The EHS program has a shared restroom and changing station in a central pass-through space between the rooms. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. One window in the 4 year old classroom is designated as a secondary emergency exit. The other two HS classrooms share an intervening door that serves as secondary egress allowing them to exit through the other classroom if needed. Both EHS classrooms have direct secondary exits to the outdoors. All exits opened freely and easily. The program has a lower level with enclosed locker rooms that serve as emergency tornado shelters. Sinks are located in each of the 3 year old HS classrooms, and EHS classrooms to facilitate hand washing.

Each room has been arranged with activity centers through the use of furniture and equipment that are arranged so as not create any blind areas. Activity centers include dramatic play, blocks, large & small manipulatives, art/crafts, sand/water play, and group learning. Each classroom has a Smart Board which can be used as a chalk board, or for internet access to present videos or other curriculum related content. Each center was stocked with a good variety of toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The materials in the activity centers are also rotated to reflect and support the planned curriculum. A daily schedule and copy of the planned curriculum is posted for each room. The center uses the Creative Curriculum and Gold Assessment to develop the curriculum. The curriculum plans are developed independently for each classroom such as the 4 year old HS classroom having a general theme of Pets and specific learning concepts such as the letter J, where one of the 3 year old HS classes having a theme of Building/Construction. The teachers continue to do an excellent job of using every opportunity to engage the children in activities related to the planned curriculum. One example was in the 4 year old classroom where when having the children line up the teacher reminded the children that the letter for the week was J and wanted them to line up like jellyfish. The center uses a positive behavior support approach that is effective in reducing the occurrence of negative behavior. During the visit the teachers would recognize and praise positive behavior, use transition activities and reminders, and when

children did have issues the teachers would engage with them in guided problem solving and conflict resolution.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. During the visit one child did become physically ill with vomiting and the teachers did an excellent job of supporting that child, notifying parents, and cleaning/disinfecting the area where the child had been sick. In other classroom a child was not feeling well and while not becoming physically sick the teachers again notified the parents, separated the child, and took note of toys the child was playing with so that they could be removed from general use until they could be disinfected. Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as needed and that they did so in an effective manner. I was able to observe a diaper change in one of the EHS classrooms and the teachers did follow established procedures. Each classroom has a first aid kit which contains a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs, and additional supplies are maintained in the office. There were no children currently taking any medications on the day of my visit. Children who have allergies or other health issues have response plans that are available in the classrooms. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they are not accessible to the children. One issue that was noted is that the center did have disease exposure notices present which were posted outside the classrooms that the affected children had been attending. It was reviewed that while this is a good practice it is required that all disease notices be clearly posted at the main entrance. This would ensure that all families and visitors to the center would be aware of the exposure either prior or immediately after entry so that those who may wish to avoid exposure can take steps to not venture further into the building.

The center also completed renovations of the cafeteria area and is now preparing meals on-site. A copy of the planned menu was posted and meals served, (tuna melts) was consistent with the planned menu. Good food handling practices were observed on the day of my visit with the staff washing their hands, and gloving when handling foods. Good food storage practices were observed with both refrigerated and dry pantry items properly stored. Meals are currently being served in the classrooms family style. The teachers do sit at the tables and eat with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

The center playground has two areas with climbing structures with one intended for the older HS children, and the other for the younger EHS children. The playgrounds are fully enclosed, and separated from each other by fencing. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing. The center does have a gymnasium which provides the children with an area where they can engage in large motor skill activities when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Reporter notice , and License certificate were present on the day of my visit. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center uses an electronic file system for child information and all required information was present and current for each child. Staff files are reviewed separately at the program central office and any issues identified are addressed with the parent agency at that time.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has competed several major renovation projects with expanding the kitchen to now provide on-site food preparation, and also the completion of the EHS classrooms. This allows the program to expand services and consolidate programming in one location. By doing so there is improved access of services to the children and families.

The program also continues to have excellent teacher engagement, and curriculum development. This was especially highlighted by the fact that several of the teachers present on the day of the visit were substitute teachers who were able to step in and maintain the programming established by the regular classroom teachers. Most of the center staff have been with the program for an extended period of time with all but one having been with the program for a year or more.

The center is currently participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a Level 1 program out of a possible 5 level scale.

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 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.