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

Name of Center: Heartland Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 65 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 7218

Street: 710 First AVE **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51501 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 710 First AVE, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

Director's Name: Merilee Mescher and Tonya Jensen **Phone Number:** 712-256-1877

On-Site Supervisor(s): na **E-Mail:** heartlandchilddev@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 08-26-2022

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	15	45	22	90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 06-21-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Heartland Child Development Center on 6-7-2023. Merilee Mescher and Tonya Jensen are co-owners and co-directors of the center. I met with Merilee and Tonya during my licensing visit. Merilee and Tonya opened their center at this location in June 2008. They have been directors in child care for many years. Merilee has an Associate's Degree in Business. Tonya has her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development. They both have their National Administrator Credential (NAC) and CDA's.
The program serves infants to school age. A summer program is provided for school age children. Full day and half day preschool services are offered. 65 children are enrolled.
The center is a one story commercial building in a mixed residential and business area.

Observation of rooms:
Each room has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment and supplies. All rooms were in ratio. Daily sheets looked good and are on the Himama app.
Tonya provides the curriculum and reviews the lesson plans that the teachers prepare. Daily themes with fun, hands on, educational learning experiences are provided daily.
The children were observed during nap time/rest time, watching a movie and playing. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were attentive to the needs of the children. During the summer the older children participate in activities at the library.

Nutrition:
The center has a cook and meals are prepared onsite. Monthly menus are posted and are posted on the Himama app. During the summer the center will participate in the free breakfast/lunch program.
Excellent food storage was observed. Each refrigerator/freezer had thermometers.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented.
Radon testing was done in April 2023, the test results have not been received back yet.
The annual fuel burning inspection was done on 3-7-2023.

Playground:
The center has a fenced playground. Monthly playground safety checks are completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Staff meeting are held on an almost monthly basis. The directors maintain ongoing contact with staff and provide a weekly staff newsletter.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Merilee and Tonya make an excellent team, they have a a wealth of early child care experience and knowledge. They are active with, AEYC and a directors group coordinated through Child Care Resource & Referral. The center provides quality child care services.
The center has achieved a level 4 on the Quality Rating System and they will participate in the IQ4K program.
The center is a wonderful resource to the community.
Staff are attentive to the needs of the children.
The center has fund raising events throughout the year.
A monthly newsletter is provided to the families.
The center uses the HiMama software and app - they post the menu, calendar, daily sheets, news letter, etc. on the app.

New in 2022/2023
The center will participate in the IQ4K program. Staff will attend the NAEYC national conference in Nashville in November 2023.

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

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Additional concerns: The main area in the front of the center was too dark during nap time and didn't allow direct observation of the children. The room needs to be light enough to see all the children at all times - you should be able to see that the children are breathing/chest rise.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 7-1-2022 to 7-1-2024.
Off year licensing visit 6-7-2023.

*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.