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

Name of Center: NICAO Hampton Head Start **Enrollment:** 12 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52292

Street: 1405 N Federal St **City:** Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50441 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: 218 5th St SW, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Meghan Judish **Phone Number:** 641-903-2248

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sara Salinas **E-Mail:** tcox@nicao-online.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-17-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-21-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-17-2023

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			13		13
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-22-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-24-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the NICAO Hampton Head Start on 09-17-24 where I met with lead teacher and on-site supervisor Sara Salinas. The program moved to the current location for the start of the 2023 school year and is continuing to look for an alternate location. The program is one of several locations overseen by NICAO with Megan Judish as the program director. Both Meghan and Sara are well qualified for the positions they hold with both having extensive education, experience, and on-going training in early childhood education. The center only provides preschool programming serving 4 year old children. There are currently 12 children enrolled in the center served by 3 teachers.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in the prior visit. The program is currently using 2 rooms with one for primary programming, and the other for meal service, individual assistance, and napping. Both rooms have secondary exits on either end opening on to the main corridor. During the visit it was observed that the primary programming room had established a "Quiet Corner" in front of the secondary exit from the room by placing a shelving unit, and pillow(s) to create a small defined area. This does need to be moved so that access to the door is maintained clear of obstruction at all times. Both have windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors and ventilation. Restrooms are located outside the classrooms off the main corridor and children are escorted to the restrooms as needed. Both have an open floor plan and activity centers are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

As with the general layout out of the building the classroom remains much the same as identified in the prior report with some minor changes to where activity centers are located as noted previously with the concern regarding the Quiet Corner by an exit door. Activity centers included options such as group learning, dramatic play, science, sand/water play, art/crafts, large/small manipulatives, writing, and library. The toys and materials present were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum was posted. The planned curriculum included a learning focus of the Letter S and the materials and activities in the classroom were reflective of this. This included art/craft projects such as making S shaped snakes, reading stories related to that letter with the teacher helping the children emphasize and practice the sound the letter makes. Good interactions were observed during the time of the visit with all of the teachers being actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum, assisting the children with their needs such as restroom use, and participating in their play. The teachers make good use of positive behavior management techniques such as recognizing and praising positive behaviors, helping children identify problem solving options, and redirecting the children as needed.

Meals are prepared by the school and brought to the center in hot/cold holding containers and the center is no longer maintaining any food stores on site. The teachers do sit with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits at the table.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. Medications, personal items, chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring that the children washed their hands as required and that they did so in an effective manner. A first aid kit was present and contained materials necessary

to address most common first aid needs. Emergency contact numbers were present both by the main phone, and in emergency kits.

The center does not have a traditional playground but does have access to open grassy outdoor space, and paved space in the parking lot that can be sectioned off.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Staff files will be reviewed at the program central office at a later date and any issues identified will be addressed at that time. Fire and tornado drill logs were present and did identify that drills were conducted as required.
With regard to other inspection certificates the center uses an online system, Child Care Plus, to track files and forms and copies of the scanned documents could not be located at the center. It was reported that the central office would have that information and a request was made for documentation for this and all other locations operated by the parent organization. Those records will be reviewed when received and any issues identified will be addressed at that time.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This continues to be a very strong program with a focus on curriculum presentation and helping children build school readiness skills.

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

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
-- The "Quiet Corner" activity center needs to be moved so that it does not block entry to the secondary exit from the room.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will continue 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.