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

Name of Center: NICAO Head Start-Clarksville **Enrollment:** 12 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22878

Street: 219 N Mathers St **City:** Clarksville Iowa **Zip** 50619 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 221 N Mathers St, Clarksville, IA, 50619

Director's Name: Trina Cox **Phone Number:** 319-278-4213

On-Site Supervisor(s): Karen Krumwiede **E-Mail:** mjudisch@NICAO-ONLINE.ORG

Date(s) of Visit: 03-28-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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: 03-06-2023

Comments : Compliance dated 04-13-23

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	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbuury **Date:** 04-18-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to NICAO-Clarksville Head Start in Clarksville on 03-28-25 where I met with Karen Krumwiede is now the lead teacher. Karen is well qualified for the position with a teaching degree and extensive experience in early childhood care and education. The program operates out of a free standing building which was built specifically for the Head Start program and they have been located here for over twenty years. The center provides preschool programming serving 4 year old children only. There are currently 12 children enrolled in the program served by a teacher, and two assistants. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visits.

The general layout and design of the facilities, and programming remain the same as in prior visits. The program operates out of one large classroom but a second room that is currently being used as storage is available if needed. A half wall and door separates the classroom from the hallway accessing the rest of the building. Windows provide ample natural lighting, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. There are secondary exits providing direct egress to the playground from both classroom spaces. All exits were observed to be free of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are located just off the classrooms and the staff do provide supervision and assistance as needed. The facilities were observed to be clean. The main classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, low shelves, and play structures such that the children had ample room to move and play without creating any blind areas. Each center was well stocked with materials that are appropriate to the ages of the children present and which were in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted.

The class was just finishing breakfast when I arrived and the program makes use of routines such as having the children brush their teeth, clear their plates, and then move to other activities. Good interactions were observed during the visit with all teachers being actively engaged with the children assisting them with activities, talking to them, and presenting the planned curriculum. The combination of the routines and teacher interaction make for a very effective implementation of the positive behavior management techniques used in the center. This was observed with reminding children to help with cleaning up the toys they had gotten out when playing, and using guided problem solving when peers were having difficulties with each other. Ratio was maintained in the center with the staff ensuring that a teacher was present in all areas where children were including considerations for placement when on the playground. The teachers also updated the, "who's here", list as children arrived and departed the center.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. As noted the center has the center engages in practices such as having children brush their teeth following meals. During the visit the teachers were observed to assist the children in the restroom as needed ensuring children washed their hands in an effective manner. During the visit one child had a toileting accident and one of the teachers assisted the child with cleaning up and changing following good standing diapering procedures. Response plans for children with diagnosed allergies were present. First aid kits are present in the center and stored in areas where they are available but not accessible to children. The kits were stocked with items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers directing children out of the immediate area when using chemical cleaners. All chemical cleaners, medications, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not readily accessible to the children.

The center does have a full kitchen and meals are prepared onsite. A copy of the planned menu was posted and identified a good variety of nutritious meal options. Good food storage practices were observed for dry pantry storage, but the center does want to monitor storage practices for refrigerated items. On the day of my visit one refrigeration unit showed a temperature of 42 deg. F, and the temperature log identified that temperatures between 40 and 44 deg. F were common. Cold holding temperatures in refrigerators should be maintained between 32 and 40 deg. F with an absolute upper limit of 42 deg. F where bacteria growth can become rampant. With the consistently elevated temperatures being identified the center would need to verify that the thermometer is accurate and either lower the temperature or replace the refrigeration unit. Good food handling practices were observed with the staff wearing food service gloves, and use of covered containers. Meals are served in the classroom family style with the teachers sitting and eating with the children. The kitchen was observed to be clean but it is noted that there was evidence of the center having some presence of insects but the center does have a pest control service.

The center has a playground with a climbing structure, paved riding track, and grassy area. The climbing structure and equipment were generally observed to be in good repair. There was one off-set pole climber element that had a loose anchor bolt which allowed the pole to shift in place.
While not to the point that it created an immediate safety concern requiring that element to be cordoned off it will need to be monitored and maintenance performed. The fall surfacing consists of a unitary foam rubber surface. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Mature trees provide shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Staff files are maintained at the program central office where they are reviewed annually during a separate visit and any concerns identified are addressed at that time. While I was not able to access child files and inspection logs on the day of the visit due to the computer system being down I was able to verify at a later date with the program central office that all elements were current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a Level 4 program out of a possible 5 Level scale. The program is also accredited by NAEYC.

While there was a change in the lead teacher role Karen was very familiar with the program having been the area supervisor overseeing the center previously and was able to take over the classroom an manner that allowed the program to maintain continuity.

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 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.