

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

Name of Center: MICA Head Start-Tama County **Enrollment:** 12 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18049

Street: 105 S State St **City:** Tama Iowa **Zip** 52339 **County:** Tama

Mailing Address: 1001 S 18th Ave, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Nicole Ramirez **Phone Number:** 641-481-2185

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brianna Barnard **E-Mail:** nicole.ramirez@micaonline.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-23-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-30-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-19-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X 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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>
---------------	-------------------	--------------------	--------------------

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			19		19
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Date: 02-14-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 1/23/24 and the On site Supervisor was present through the visit.

This program is operated through MICA Head Start. This Head Start is located in the same building as the Mid-Iowa Community Action organization in Tama. The center has a secured entrance. Programming takes place in one classroom. The center also has a playground and kitchen area. The administrative offices for MICA are located in Marshalltown. Nicole Ramirez is the Early Childhood Program Coordinator, and is listed as the director over all the sites. Each site has a lead teacher who meets the 100 points required to be a director. The current on-site supervisor is Brianna Barnard, starting 8/2023. Brianna has a Bachelors in teaching/elementary education along with prior experience. She working toward a CDA.

This program operates M-F, however does not have preschool classes on Wednesday. A morning session is offered from 8:15 am to 11:45 am and an afternoon session is offered from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm. This is a school year only program.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room Observations/Activities: The program uses the Frog Street Curriculum, using email and text to communicate with parents. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The room is nicely arranged to enable good supervision for the children in the program. Staff were observed to maintain good structure and were interacting while lunch was eaten, family style. The children were content and responding to the program structure.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and full-time food aide. The program crafts menus in line with CACFP guideline and rotates the menus. Snacks/meals are served family style in the rooms. The kitchen was clean and had the required postings.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored secured and readily accessible by staff if needed. There are handwashing posters hung and first aid kits available. Emergency exit plans are posted and drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon testing is coordinated through central office, that also coordinates HVAC inspections.

Playground: Playground checks are complete. The playground is enclosed with chain link and has small play structures and was again covered by snow during this visit.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporting information; handbook accessibility, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted. The program was provided a new consultant contact poster. Files were reviewed and contained all necessary information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has attained Level 4 of IQ4K (quality rating scale); offering a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and programming.

The staff work well together in a team environment.

The program has developed strong relationships with outside agencies such as AEA, FDS and the school district.

The program has a strong partnership with the South Tama School District (STSD). Many children are dual enrolled without needing to be on an IEP and STSD provides busing for these children.

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

There were not aspects of operation that were observed to fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center last conducted radon testing in October of 2021 and the testing fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the program is following CACFP guidelines.

The staff were observed to work as a team to provide good structure in the room; leading a family-style meal and accommodating challenging behavior in the room as well.

*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.