

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

Name of Center: NICA Head Start-Winnebago **Enrollment:** 15 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22841

Street: 1405 West I Street **City:** Forest City **Iowa Zip** 50436 **County:** Winnebago

Mailing Address: PO Box 1627, Mason City, IA, 50402

Director's Name: Trena Cox **Phone Number:** 641-494-1891

On-Site Supervisor(s): Diane Bronson **E-Mail:** tcox@nicad-online.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-26-2024

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: 12-15-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 02-01-2024

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 Winnebago County Head Start program on 01-26-24 where I met with lead teacher Diane Bronson. Diane took over as the lead teacher in 2017 and is well qualified with a Bachelor degree and experience in early childhood education. This program is located in a single classroom in the Forest City elementary school but is overseen by a separate board of directors through the North Iowa Community Action Organization. The program is one of several Head Start locations overseen by that organization with Trena Cox being the executive program director overseeing the various locations. The program provides preschool services only to children 3-4 years of age. There are currently 15 children enrolled in the program served by 3 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The arrangement and design of the classroom remains the same as in prior visits. The room was observed to be clean and free of any noted safety concerns related to layout or maintenance. Restroom facilities are located outside of the classroom and children are escorted to the restroom if needed. There is a sink in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Windows along the exterior wall provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and serve as secondary emergency egress. The room has an open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the use of low shelves, play structures, and furniture. The arrangement of the play structures does not create any blind areas and allows the children room to play. Each center was well stocked with materials and supplies that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. The planned curriculum on the day of my visit had a general theme of Simple Machines and this was reflected in the materials and activities that were present. Good interactions were observed with the teachers being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned schedule and curriculum. This included a small group teacher lead activity of using a spin art machine. During the visit all of the teachers were actively engaged with the children joining in their play or attending to their needs. The teachers do an excellent job of using positive behavior management approaches. This was seen in one situation where rather than focusing on negative aspects a teacher focused on a positive aspect and used the situation for learning. In the situation a child at the sand play table had poured water from the neighboring water play station. Rather than admonishing the child for pouring water in the sand the teacher observed the wet sand and talked with the child about how the water changes the appearance and attributes of the sand to help the child learn and explore. In other situations the teachers helped the children with problem solving, or enlisting their help in asking peers if they wanted a turn at an activity to help build social interactions.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good hand washing practices are in place with the teachers ensuring that they and the children washed their hands frequently and did so in an effective manner. Chemical cleaners and other items that could present a risk to children were stored in a secure location. When using chemical cleaners in the classroom the teachers would direct children to other areas of the room. A limited first aid kit is maintained in the classroom and the program also has access to the school nurse.

Meals are prepared by the school and a menu is posted. Meals are modified to follow the Child and Adult Care Food Program Guidelines. Meals are served in the classroom and there is a small refrigerator in the classroom that can be used to

maintain items that need to be kept cold. A limited supply of dry pantry items are also kept in the classroom and all items were properly stored. While I was not able to observe meal service prior report do identify that the teachers do sit and eat with the children to model good social skills and eating habits. The program does engage in family style meal service with the children serving themselves. The teachers to provide assistance and reminders regarding handling to reduce the risk for disease transmission.

The program uses a school playground which has a climbing structure and swings, a unitary pour in place foam rubber system for fall surfacing, and shade provided by an awning. The playground area is fully enclosed by fencing. This area was previously reviewed during a visit to another program located in the same building and was found to be free of any concerns.

All required notices were posted in an area readily available to all parents and visitors. Staff files are reviewed at the program central office separately and any concerns identified are addressed at the time during that review. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information and documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were current and available.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the QRS program which seeks to implement best practices standards and is currently rated a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

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

None Cited

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.