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

Name of Center: NICAO Head Start-Floyd County **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 33769

Street: 404 N Jackson St **City:** Charles City Iowa **Zip** 50616 **County:** Floyd

Mailing Address: PO Box 1627, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Trena Cox **Phone Number:** 641-228-4515

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

Date(s) of Visit: 02-20-2023, 03-03-2023

X **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: 06-11-2020

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

Get-Well Evening Care X 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	19	0	19
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-21-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit to NICAO-Floyd County Head Start in Charles City on 02-20-23 where I was able to review the physical facilities but the program did not have children present. A follow up visit was made on 03-03-23 when the children were present where I met with Nicole Foster who is the on-site supervisor and lead teacher for the Head Start class. Trena Cox is the director of the early childhood programs operated by the North Iowa Community Action Organization (NICAO) at the main office located in Mason City. The Head Start is located in the Family Resource Center in Charles City and is now the only occupant of that building. The program is consolidating the Early Head Start, and regular Head Start classes which will both be served in the same building. There are currently 32 children enrolled the the center between the programs. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The program moved to different classrooms within the building and will have two classrooms for the Head Start program, and two classrooms for the Early Head Start program. The Head Start rooms will be connected by an intervening hallway where restroom facilities are located but a mobile panel divider will be used to prevent the children from moving between the rooms. The Early Head Start will also make use of two classrooms connected by an intervening passthrough where a changing station, and toilet facilities will be located. It was noted that the toilets had been removed at the time of the first visited and were replaced with smaller toddler sized toilets by the time of the follow-up visit. Each room has a direct exit from the room to the exterior. The exits were clear of obstruction, opened easily and freely, and were alarmed so that staff would be aware if a child were to open the door. As noted there are bathrooms located just off the main programming of each classroom space with additional bathrooms located off the corridors of the building interior. Additional sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation.

The two head start classrooms are divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, shelves, and play structures. One room serves primarily 3 year old children, and the other 4 year old children. The rooms were arranged so that there were no blind areas and in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities. Each center was stocked with a good variety of materials that were in good condition and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum was posted.

The Early Head Start classroom as noted makes use of two rooms connected by a pass through corridor. One side is used for large motor skill activities with materials such as soft side climbers, and the other has centers more focused on quiet activities such as reading and arts/crafts. both areas have elevated activity centers and the one in the large motor room had soft mats and items beneath it where children were observed to be playing. This area does have limited sight lines and while it allowable for the children to play in this area it would require staff positioning of a teacher being in that space to ensure supervision.

Good interactions were observed with the teachers presenting the planned curriculum, engaging in play activities with the children, and attending to their needs. Good behavior management practices were observed with a strong focus on positive management techniques. As an example one teacher asked the children "clean up the toys so they could be safe", and another reviewing expectations by reminding children of activity sequencing using "this before that" guidance. The

teachers also have a strong focus on safety. During the second visit one child was observed wanting to throw a playdough ball in a game of catch and the teacher responding by setting a clear limit in not allowing that because it would not be safe, and directing the child to acceptable play options.

Good health and safety practices were observed on each day of my visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers reminding the children to wash their hands and observing or assisting the children to ensure they washed them in an effective manner after restroom use, before eating, and other times that they became soiled. The center does maintain a first aid kit with a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. There were no children taking any medications but the center does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. Chemical cleaners, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas where they are 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. I was able to observe the center as children were preparing for nap time and cots were spaced to provide ease of access and reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Kitchen facilities are present and meals are prepared on-site. The kitchen was was observed to be clean. Good food storage, and handling practices were observed. One issue that was noted during the first visit was a milk cooler where the temperature was high and prior logs indicated the temperature had been increasing over the past week. It was suggested that the center monitor the temperature as it may indicate either the thermostat needed to be adjusted or repairs may be needed. A menu is posted and did identify nutritious options that meet CACFP guidelines. I was able to observe lunch service during the second visit and the meal served was consistent with the planned menu of a cheese sandwich, fish sticks, corn, apples, and milk. Meals are served in the classrooms family style with the teachers sitting at the tables eating with the children.

The playground is fenced and includes a variety of toys and play structures. There was a climbing structure present which was reported to belong to the daycare that had recently moved to a new location and which would also be moved when weather conditions allowed. Another rock climbing structure is present which does not have sufficient fall zones and so children are not allowed to climb on that unit but can engage in ground play beneath the structure. A sand box is present and the center is working to obtain a tarp to cover the sandbox. Shade is provided by a covered gazebo area and mature trees. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was in good repair.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. In reviewing child files all were found to contain all required information. Staff files are reviewed at the program central administrative offices and any concerns identified are addressed at that time. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is currently participates in the Quality Rating Scales program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated as a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

The interactions of the teachers with the children and the focus on positive behavior management techniques were exceptional throughout the visit.

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.