Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Tiny Tots Childcare

Provider No.: 53065

Address: 5615 Hickman Rd, Des Moines, IA, 50310

County: Polk

Director's Name: Kati Zepeda

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5156012220

E-Mail: zepedakati91@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/17/2026

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/05/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General					0
Summer	16	19	18	7	60

1. Basic Overview

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Tiny Tots Childcare opened in December 2025. The center is located in a single standing building that has a secured entrance. The center provides child care for infants through school age. The owner and director of the center is Kati Zepeda. Kati had director experience prior to opening the center.

The center uses BrightWheel. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Classrooms for children ages two and older had current lesson plans, Weather and Rainbows. There is one staff that does lesson plans for all classrooms. Children's belongings are kept in individual cubbies. Classrooms had age appropriate furnishings and toys in place. A recommendation was made for the young infant classroom. A climbing structure needed fall zone mat in the 2/3's classroom. There is an enclosed area in the 2/3's classroom and the use of this was discussed to ensure the center is in compliance with HHS Rules. The center is working with outside professionals regarding the needs of a few children who attend the center. At this time, this worker is allowing this enclosed area.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All classrooms were observed. The infant classroom is divided into two areas, the young infants and the mobile infants. The young infants had three infants present. Two staff were working in this area. The mobile infants had two infants present. There was one staff working with this group. The 2/3's classroom had nine children present. There were two staff working in this classroom. The 3/4's class had three children in attendance. One staff

was working with this group of children. The school age classroom had three children present. One staff was working in this room. Staff were seen coloring with children at tables, reading books with children as a group. Children's music was playing in some classrooms.

The center has a warming kitchen. Menus were reviewed and showed compliance with CACFP. Menus are on a three week rotation. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Snack served today was peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and 100% juice.

The center has a fenced in playground areas. Fall zone surfacing isn't required as there are no climbing structures.

The center doesn't provide transportation. Staff walk across the street to pick up children who attend Hillis Elementary.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
There were some children's files missing dental information.

109.10(1): Medications: The center shall have written procedures for dispensing, storage, and authorization, and recording of all prescription and non-prescription medications.Staff must be over 18 to administer medication.All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child’s name.For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given.For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.Staff shall not provide medications to a child if pre-service/orientation training for medication management has not been completed.
The center hasn't had parents complete medical permission forms for application of diaper cream.
Staff need to document application of diaper cream.

109.11(2)a: The center will provide sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture. It must meet the developmental, activity and special needs of the children.
There was a climbing structure in the 2/3's classroom. The climbing structure was placed on a rug. The height of the structure requires required fall zone surfacing.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

This worker talked to the director about recommendations for the young infant classroom. There were several restrictive containers on the floor in the classroom. This worker suggested several containers be removed from the classroom. There are several reasons the use of these devices should be not used or they be used very limited in daycare settings. Infants learn best when they can move around freely, interact with their environment, and explore. Restrictive containers limit these opportunities, which are crucial for healthy development.

Date: 03/26/2026

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.