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

Name of Center: Tiny Treasures Community Daycare Center **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52217

Street: 214 N 6th ST **City:** Estherville Iowa **Zip** 51334 **County:** Emmet

Mailing Address: 214 N 6th ST, Estherville, IA, 51334

Director's Name: Caressa Franklin **Phone Number:** 712-209-3563

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** ttdaycarecentet2021@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-27-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-06-2023

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	9	6	9	9	33
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2025 to 07-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 06-02-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was made to the Tiny Treasures Daycare Center on 05-27-25 where I met with the center director Caressa Franklin. Caressa took over as the center director in August 2024 and is well qualified for the position having prior experience as the on-site supervisor for the center, and working toward her Center Director Associate certificate. The current program is located in a remodeled office space near the downtown area of Emmetsburg. The center has reduced services to providing programming for infants through pre-school age children. The center is in the process of working to acquire the property and program for another daycare in town where they will move the pre-school age children, and provide care to school age children. There are currently 30 children enrolled in the program served by 17 full and part-time staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building remains the same as in the previous visit. The program makes use of 3 rooms with one for infants, one for children 2-3 years of age, and one for older preschool age children. The center did change which rooms were being used with the infants now in the larger room that was previously used for the pre-school and school age children, and the preschool age children now using the room that had been used by the infants. The center is considering options to use mobile barriers to further divide the infant room in programming space for mobile an non-mobile infants. Each room has secondary exits that provide direct egress to the outdoors. All exit doors were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely with exception of the door for the 2 year old room in which the latch mechanism was difficult to operate. It was reviewed that this does need to be repaired and notice was provided to the fire marshal that this had been identified. The center does make use of a basement area for tornado shelter and access to that area was clear of obstruction. The infant and 2-3 year old rooms have sinks located in the room to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located off the main corridors with one near the main entry, and one at the back between the toddler and infant rooms. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of low shelves, furniture, and play structures which are arranged so that there are no blind areas. The facility was observed to be clean with a few minor maintenance issues most of which did not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern. One issue that was identified was a cabinet door above the changing station of the 2 year old room where the hinge was loose and this should be tightened or replaced to reduce the risk of the door falling where it could injure a child that is being changed.

The center programming also remains the same as in prior visits. All classrooms have activity centers that include options such as large manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading with increasing options for children as their age and developmental levels increase to include small manipulatives, dramatic play, puzzles/table games, and group learning. The toys and materials present were observed to be in good repair however there were items in the infant/toddler room(s) that were choking hazards. It was reviewed that items or toys with parts that can easily break off which are less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age, and should be kept in storage where they can be brought out for supervised play for children that are 3 years of age. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum need to be posted, however it was obvious that the staff were following daily schedule as they moved from activities such as nap time, to diapering/toileting, and center play. Good interactions were observed in all classrooms with the teachers being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The center uses a positive behavior management approach of using routines, reminders, and redirection with the children. Given the

younger age groups, relatively small classroom sizes, and strong relationships the staff have developed with the children this approach is very successful and there were no behavioral issues observed on the day of my visit. All staff were observed to use calm and positive tones, and maintained a calm demeanor when talking to and interacting with the children.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. The children were napping when I arrived and there was insufficient illumination present in classrooms. All classrooms were making use of heavy light blocking coverings and it was reviewed that there needs to be enough illumination such that staff can observe all children regardless of relative proximity and be able to determine if the child is in need of assistance as indicated by cues such as rise and fall of the chest, skin coloration, etc. Safe sleep practices were followed for children under 1 year of age. One crib was observed to have an improperly sized fitted sheet that was too large and needed to be replaced but that crib was not being used on the day of the visit. During the visit I was able to observe a diaper change and the teacher did follow the posted procedures. Good cleaning practices were observed with the staff cleaning tables prior to meal service and when children were not in the immediate area. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. Over the counter medications were labeled and properly stored. A first aid kit was present in the center and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.

The center does have a small outdoor space attached to the facility but due to the commercial zone nature of the location the space is limited. As a result the center does make use of local public parks, and other facilities for outdoor play. The space that is attached does have a dramatic play house, crawling tunnel, stepping stones, and other toys. There are no climbing structures. The mature tree that was present has been removed and the center will need to install some other shade option either with portable, or constructed structures. The space is fully enclosed by fencing which was in good repair. The center was unable to acquire the adjacent property to allow for the expansion of the program and outdoor space.

The center does have a limited kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the menu was posted and provided a good variety of nutritious meal options consistent with CACFP guidelines. Good food handling and storage practices were observed in the kitchen and classrooms. Meals were pre-portioned with staff wearing food service gloves and using measured scoops. Meals were brought to the classroom where they were served. While the staff did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the table.

In reviewing administrative records the required notices for consultant contact, mandatory reporting, no smoking, and license certificate were present and posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. In reviewing child files the center does make use of the Playground communication and file maintenance application, but also maintains hard copy files. A random selection of 1/3 of the files were reviewed and found to contain all required information with the exception of Allergy Response plans for Environmental and Medication related allergies. Sample forms were provided to the center. One other issue that was noted is that staff were not documenting daily Disposition and Activities for all children under 24 months of age as required. In reviewing staff files all contained all required training certificates and physicals but Iowa SING and FBI results could not be verified as these are maintained by the Board President, Michelle Howing, at a secure off-site location. These do need to be maintained in a secure manner at the center location to allow for review. The center handbooks were previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for Emergency Drills, but documentation of Playground, Radon, and Fuel Burning Appliance inspections could not be located on the day of the visit. A sample form to document playground inspections was sent to the center, and it was reviewed that if the center cannot locate inspection certificates for Radon and Fuel Burning Appliances these will need to be re-done.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is in the process of trying to acquire the physical premises and programming of another daycare center in town that expand preschool and school age child programming.

The center is working to develop curriculum activities that will include outings during the summer.

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

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- Documentation of daily activities and disposition were not maintained as required.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in

burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- Illumination sufficient to observe children and determine if they are in distress is required. The evacuation door from the 2 year old room is difficult to open and requires maintenance. The outdoor playground requires shade.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Items and toys with parts that can break off and be choking hazards need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Bedding needs to be properly fitted to mattresses and cots.

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.