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

Name of Center: Tiny Treasures Daycare Center, LLC **Enrollment:** 39 **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: Taetym Fredericksen **Phone Number:** 712-209-3563

On-Site Supervisor(s): Caressa Franklin **E-Mail:** michellehowing@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-03-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-30-2023

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 07-10-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 06-07-2024

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 06-03-24 where I met with Michelle Howing, Taetym Fredericksen, and Caressa Franklin. Michelle is the current owner of the program but is working to transition it to a non-profit program. Taetym is the center director and is well qualified for the position having prior experience and training. Caressa will be the on-site supervisor for the center once the center has completed renovation of a second building which will be used for preschool and school age child programming. That building is located across the street and Taetym will act as the executive director for both locations. The current program is located in a remodeled office space near the downtown area of Emmetsburg. The center provides full range child care serving infants through school age children. There are currently 39 children enrolled in the program served by 9 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 preschool and school age children. Each room has secondary exits that provide direct egress to the outdoors. All exit doors were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. The center does make use of a basement area for tornado shelter. 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 preschool 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.

As with the general layout of the building the layout of the classrooms 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 and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted and were being followed. Good interactions were observed in all classrooms with the teachers being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. This included the teachers being down on the floor playing with the children, attending to their needs such as diapering and preparing food, and doing group activities such as reading a story to the children. The center uses a positive behavior management approach of using routines, reminders, and redirection.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. During the visit I was able to observe a diaper change and the teacher did follow the posted procedures but one issue that was noted was the teacher holding the child when spraying chemical cleaners to disinfect the surface. It was reviewed that children should be returned to the programming space before using cleaning products. Good cleaning practices were otherwise observed with the staff cleaning the 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. Safe sleep practices were reviewed when it was identified that there were two children under 1 year of age that had blankets in the cribs. The staff did state that both

children were due to turn 1 year old within the next couple of weeks. It was reviewed that even though both children were almost 1 year of age the requirement would still apply, and even beyond that it is not recommended to have blanket, pillows, or plushes in cribs as those items can still bind against the rails bunching up around a child's face.

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, some toys, and a child sized picnic table. There are no climbing structures. Shade is provided by the building and mature trees. The space is fully enclosed by fencing. Michelle did state that the property that is being renovated for the preschool and school age children does have additional outdoor space that will be used to create a larger playground space in the future.

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. One issue that was noted is that the snack that had been prepared included raw cucumber slices which were also provided for the infants. Raw vegetables can present a choking hazard to young children and either need to be cooked or cut into pieces that can be easily chewed and swallowed. Good food handling and storage practices were observed in the kitchen and classrooms. Meals were pre-portioned in the kitchen 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. All files were found to contain all required information. In reviewing staff files a random sample of 5 were reviewed and were generally found to have the required information but FBI results could not be found for 4 of the files, 1 Iowa SING check was incomplete, and 1 file needed updated Mandatory Reporter training. 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, and Playground inspection but were available for Radon, or Fuel Burning Appliances.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is in the process of renovating a building across the street to expand programming for preschool and school age children.

The center is currently working on being certified under the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations. Taetym identified that several staff are working on the CDA credentials as part of that.

The center also received a Business Investment Program grant.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 4 If the current results cannot be located the center will need to resubmit new background checks.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets

Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
-- Blankets were present in cribs for 2 children under 1 year of age. While it was identified that both children would turn 1 year of age within the next couple of weeks the requirements would apply until their birthday.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
-- Raw fruits and vegetables are not recommended for infants but if served need to be modified either by cooking or cutting into pieces small enough so as not to be a choking hazard.

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.