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

Name of Center: Northern Dallas County Head Start **Enrollment:** 83 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28405

Street: 2816 First Ave **City:** Perry Iowa **Zip** 50220 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: PO Box 427, Carroll, IA, 51401

Director's Name: Tonya Weber **Phone Number:** 515-465-5972

On-Site Supervisor(s): Becky Freeman **E-Mail:** tweber@newopp.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-11-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-12-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-24-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	16	16	60	0	92
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-12-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 4/11/24. The area center supervisor was present throughout the entire visit and the on-site supervisor was present for a portion of this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Northern Dallas County Head Start is a Head Start program located in Perry, IA. The program serves children six weeks in age through age five years in age Monday through Friday. Children can attend all day programming. All three classrooms serving children three - five years of age are licensed for 20 children. The four Early Head Start classrooms are capped at a capacity of eight children each. Classrooms serving three to five year old children are only in operation during the school year. The four Early Head Start classroom are open year-round. The center utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum-Gold in their teachings.

This Head Start program is operated by New Opportunities Inc. which is based in Carroll, IA. New Opportunities operates several Head Start and Early Head Start programs licensed by this consultant. There is a church in the same building as the center, but there are separate and secure entrances for both businesses.

The director of this program (and other New Opportunities Head Start programs) is Tonya Weber. Tonya has been the director since 7/2013. Tonya has a BA degree. The on-site supervisor is Becky Freeman. Becky has a CDA and has worked at this program since 2006.

During the visit, children were observed having a diaper changed, being held, having tummy time, engaged in a large group activity facilitated by staff, and outside playing on the playground. Good dialogue was overheard between children and staff throughout the visit.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

All teacher assistants and program aids are bilingual in English and Spanish. Also, many of the postings observed are in English as well as in Spanish as there are a number of Hispanic families the program serves.

Monthly newsletters are sent home to parents (again in English and Spanish).

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The preschool participates in the food program (CACFP).

Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their child's programs/activities. Communication is kept open. In addition,

there are two parent teacher conferences a year as well as two scheduled home visits per year.

The program has a few in-service days each school year where there are no classes. This allows staff to stay current on certificates and/or gain additional developmental training hours.

There is a secure entrance into the building. Cameras are also in classrooms.

Children under three years in age have their own separate playground.

Good child/staff activities were observed in all three classrooms. Children seemed to be happy and enjoying all activities.

Management believes they have a good staff and they all work well with one another.

Files were nicely organized.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The program has installed new surfacing and a new climbing structure on the big playground over the past year.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. 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.
There is a cupboard where the hinge is coming off as well as the safety clip keeping the cupboard door securely shut. There were cleaners kept in this cupboard. These two things on the cupboard will need to be repaired.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years and was last completed 4/9/21 - 4/12/21 and 11/12/21 - 11/15/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. The center also tested for radon again in 4/2024 and are awaiting results. However, because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years

The last annual furnace inspection was completed 3/30/23 so it is again due now. This is scheduled in the near future per the center supervisor.

Each classroom has a functioning carbon monoxide detector.

Daily playground checks are conducted.

The center contracts with the school district for any field trips. The center will also bring agencies into the center for presentations to children.

I- Power was discussed at the visit.

The time frames between lunch and PM snack should be changed and moved up by five minutes in the first Head Start classroom observed.

Best practice is that no boppy pillows be used in the program.

Caps and/or nuts should be added to the bolts on the ground of the younger children's playground so that no more than two threads are showing.

It was noted that one child was within their 30 day grace period of needing an updated physical. This is also reportedly scheduled.

*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.