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

Name of Center: Tracey's Tots Daycare Co - Fort Dodge **Enrollment:** 35 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 7448

Street: 109 S 8th ST **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: PO Box 7, Churdan, IA, 50050

Director's Name: Jenny Lindner (director) Tracey Wilson (owner) **Phone Number:** 515-576-5437

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** traceystotsdaycare@frontier.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-06-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-22-2022

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	12	38	15	25	90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 05-28-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Tracey's Tots Daycare on 05-06-24 where I met with center director, Jenny Lindner, and center owner Tracey Wilson. Jenny took over the director role in June 2019 and is well qualified for the position with extensive experience and on-going training in early childhood care. The program is located in the downtown area of Fort Dodge and provides daycare programming for infants through school age children. The center is privately owned and operated as a for profit business by Tracey Wilson. There are approximately 35 children enrolled in the program served by 9 staff. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visits.

The design and layout of the building remains the same as in the past. The facility has a large central room where the school age children are located, and classrooms for the other children are along the perimeter. The center has two rooms which were previously used for older infants, and 2-3 year old children that are currently vacant and being used for storage. The preschool children are located in a larger classroom along the east side of the building. Each room with the exception of the 2 year old room has multiple entrances though several of these are accessed through another classroom. There are multiple direct exits that lead from the main open space where the school age children are located. All exits opened easily and freely. One issue that was noted was a stack of cribs that had been places to create an access corridor for the 2-3 year old classroom but which also restricted access of the preschool room from accessing the secondary exit from that room. It was discussed that this may be a violation of the fire code requirements and the center would need to review with the fire marshal to determine if that arrangement were acceptable or if other options would need to be considered. The young infant room, 2 year old, 3 year old, and central area used by the older children have windows that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The older infant room is an interior space that has no windows. Bathrooms are located off the central classroom area with separate facilities for boys and girls and multiple stalls in each restroom. One toilet was observed to be non-functional and it was reported that a child had flushed a toy and a plumber had been contacted. There is also a changing room with a small sink located just off the main central area used for the preschool age children who still require diapering. There is an additional sink for hand washing off the school age programming area. The hot water of handwashing sinks was measured to be 125.8 deg. F. and needs to adjusted to no more than 120 deg. F. at the spigot. The center makes use of a basement area for emergency severe weather shelter and it was observed to have had substantial work completed to remove damaged materials and other clutter providing more room for use as a shelter.

Each classroom has activity centers created through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas. The toys and materials present were generally appropriate to the ages of the children present but several issues were noted. Some of the toys present in the infant rooms, and rooms serving children under 48 months of age that would be prone to mouthing toys included small parts that could be a choking hazard. Those items need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age, and stored where they can be brought out for supervised play for children 3-4 years of age. There were other toys in the preschool room that were labeled as having been manufactured as promotional items for food vendors and these need to be removed from the center. The center did appear to have disposed of many of the toys that were damaged and this was particularly noticed in the preschool classroom. The reduction of the available materials and rearrangement of the room did make the space appear to be more open but also limited in terms of activities. A daily schedule and curriculum were posted in several of the classrooms but it was not clear that these were being followed. As an example while visiting the preschool classroom the children were engaged in an

art/craft activity but when reviewing the planned schedule and curriculum it identified a specific art project related to the general theme of Caterpillars but the teacher identified it as a self-interest activity. While centers and staff have the flexibility to alter schedules and curriculum plans to suit the particular interests and dynamics of the children the center has struggled with curriculum implementation in the past and part of the plan of correction was to use prepared lesson plans. All teachers were engaged with the children and providing supervision. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age.

Health and safety policies and procedures are in place but applied practices were an issue. I was unable to observe a diaper change due to there being no infants attending the center on the day of my visit. Each changing station did have the required procedures posting present. The center has worked to address the prior concerns regarding the insect/vermin infestation and continues to make use of a pest management service. During the visit there were a few dead bugs observed but no live bugs. Good hand washing practices were generally observed during the time of the visit. Due to no infants being present Safe sleep practices could not be assessed however it was noted that several of the cribs had loose hardware and appeared to have served their useful life. These either need to be repaired or replaced. Medications, chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible. Over the counter medications were not labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged as required.

The center playground primary climbing structure is of an age that the center should be exploring options to remove or replace the structure. The structure is showing wear and damage such as the slide chute pulling away from the anchor points and deforming the plastic. While not an immediate safety risk and structural failure this does need to be closely monitored and use of those elements that are damaged and unsafe discontinued until they are repaired or replaced. The center has installed pea gravel over the entire playground space, and wood chips for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures. Several mature trees provide shade. The playground is fully enclosed by chain link fencing which was observed to be in good repair. There are two storage sheds present both of which need maintenance. There was some trash from the surrounding community that had blown into the playground, and some broken toys which need to be removed.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A menu is posted and a good variety of food options are identified. Food storage practices do need to be reviewed as not all food items had been placed in air tight sealable food grade containers, and labeled with the contents and date placed in storage as required. While the floors and counters of the center were clean this did result in some food debris spilling on the refrigeration unit which does serve as an attractant to insects and rodents. The children do eat in the classrooms and staff provide supervision while the children are eating. Meals are pre-portioned and staff use measured scoops to ensure that each child receives a full serving.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. A random selection of 10 child files were reviewed and compared to the self-audit system which was found to be accurate. The review and self-audit identified that 18 children need a current physical. A random sample of 5 staff files were selected for review and again the self audit completed by the center was found to be accurate. The review and self-audit identified 1 file that needed an updated physical. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center does have two center owned vans used to transport children to and from school. The vans appeared to be in good repair and documentation of recent maintenance.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has worked to address many of the concerns that have been identified in prior reports. Most notably are the removal of the clutter that was stored in the basement severe weather shelter area, and the administrative records for staff files.

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

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 18

109.10(3)a: 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.
-- Over the counter medications were not labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged.

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.
-- Hot water temperature shall not exceed 120 deg. F. as measured at the spigot. The non-functional toilet needs to be repaired.

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.
-- Cribs with loose hardware need to be repaired or replaced. Toys labeled as being manufactured as promotional items for food vendors need to be removed.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- All food items must be stored in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the contents and date placed in storage once the original packaging seal has been broken. Spilled food debris needs to be cleaned up so as not to be an attractant to insects and rodents.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide notice to the DHS Licensing Consultant when those elements identified as not meeting Licensing Standards have been corrected. 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.