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

Name of Center: Tri-County Head Start-Lily Furgerson **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22888

Street: 507 Argyle St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50703 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: PO Box 1050, Waterloo, IA, 50704

Director's Name: Dr. Robert Welch **Phone Number:** 319-235-0383

On-Site Supervisor(s): Dusty Olson **E-Mail:** lsmith@teamtricounty.org

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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: 10-26-2023

Comments :

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*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	22	14	16		52
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: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-26-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 05/15/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Tri-County Head Start-Lily Furgerson in Waterloo. I met with Dusty Olson, the program manager and on-site supervisor. Laurie Duff is the family worker. She meets with families in the home to provide support and assist with community resources. Dr. Latisha Smith became the director of the Tri-County Head Start programs in December 2022. She is the Educational Services Director for Tri-County Head Start. She started in this position in September 2021. She has a BA in early childhood and elementary education, an MA in Education and a Doctor of Education in curriculum and instruction. Her office is in the administration office in Waterloo. There is ten staff members employed at the program.

The program is in a free-standing building. The Head Start program can operate Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. The center serves children birth through five-years-old. It also provides wrap around childcare before and after the Head Start program. There are currently 31 children enrolled.

The center operates out of four rooms. They also have a Great room in the middle of the facility. The rooms include an infant room (Dreaming Dragonfly), a room for children approximately 15-24 months-old (Brave Butterflies), a room for children two-years-olds (Caring Caterpillars) and a room for two and three-year-olds (Friendly Fireflies). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

There is a bathroom with three toilets and three sinks in the Great room area. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is also a staff bathroom with one toilet and one sink in this area. There is a bathroom in the administrative hallway that has one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted.

The Great room is in the middle of the facility. This area is used to combine the children during the first and last hour of the day and used for gross motor activity when the children cannot go outside. There are several center activities available for the children.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum to prepare lesson plans and completes GOLD assessments. They also complete 45-day assessments, which include ASQ, ASQ-SE and Brigance assessments. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans. The length of the study depends on the interest level of the children and number of activities associated with the study. In the infant room they set developmental goals for each child and plan activities to achieve these goals. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

Daily sheets are maintained on children under the age of two.

The center partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide the children with hearing and vision screenings. Central Rivers AEA and they come to classrooms to work with children who have identified needs. Monthly newsletters are provided to the parents and the program participates in the Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in the classroom. This focuses on the three components, "be safe, be responsible and be respectful". There are several visual cues in the classrooms to help direct the children. I did observe positive redirection and PBIS Methods being used with the children.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in the classrooms. Staff members communicate with one another using two-way radios. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection is not necessary because the building is all electric. A carbon monoxide detector is not necessary because the building is electric. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/26/23.

Head Start participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Meals and snacks are prepared by Head Start staff. Lunch is delivered to the center from the Head Start Learning and Community Center in Waterloo. The Head Start dietician makes the menu the for the program. The older children use family style. Disposable products are mostly used. Other items are put through an industrial dishwasher located in the kitchen. There is a refrigerator in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Menus were posted and allergies were confidentially posted.

Some of the rooms have a kitchenette area with a sink. This is beneficial in helping to prepare meals and snacks. There is a refrigerator in each of the rooms and thermometers were present.

Head Start provides two kinds of formula, baby food and cereal for the infants. If the infant requires a special formula Head Start will purchase the formula with a doctor's note. Bottles are placed through the industrial dishwasher in the kitchen to be washed and sanitized.

Head Start provides diapers and wipes for the children.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing tables. I discussed or observed diaper changes with staff members and proper procedures are followed.

The center uses cribs and cots to nap.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The center has a fenced in play area located on the north and south sides of the building. The south side offers several smaller play areas. The various areas use rubber tiles for surface cushioning and there is climbing equipment of various sizes. There are rocking toys for the children. There are picnic tables and benches for the children to rest. There is a large grassy area for the children to play. There is a new bike path made from turf and the program turned a storage shed into a gas station.

On the north side there is a large grassy area. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning in one area where there is a piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is a bicycle-merry-go-round and rocking toys. There is a second area that uses rubber mulch as surface cushioning. In this area there is a stationary police car, a teeter totter and a balance beam.

There is a shade shelter on the north side and several trees on both sides that provide shade.

Staff members were observed to have great teamwork. They were enthusiastic and had great interaction with the children. Staff members sat with the children and introduced them to activities, while also encouraging them to use their imaginations. Staff members greeted parents and children as they arrived for the day. Staff members used play to talk with the children about colors. They provided the children with praise but used positive redirection when necessary. I observed several staff members put their PBIS skills to work. Staff members were patient and talked with the children about using their words. Staff members were amazing and the children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program divides the room into zones for supervision and have "Active Supervision" posters in the rooms.

The program has presenters, such as the fire department and library, visit the children.

Central Rivers AEA staff members visit the program to support children who need speech and other services. AEA members provide consultation and model techniques for teachers to use in the classroom.

Head Start has "family events" and they have a good turnout from parents.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in the rooms.

Mr. Olson states their children have good attendance and the staff members are fantastic. He states they give stellar observations, both formal and informal.

Mr. Olson states they are working on using more Spanish language with non-native children.

Mr. Olson states they are getting started on a Fatherhood Initiative with Head Start. They want to get fathers involved agency-wide with activities. They want to move toward true engagement with the family and program. They may do a podcast.

Mr. Olson states they have a social media presence.

Mr. Olson states they have a contract with Black Hawk County for a nurse. Her name is Darcie Stone.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Dr. Robert Welch as the director. Dr. Latisha Smith is no longer with the program.

*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.