

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center:	Time For Tots Early Learning Center	Enrollment:	45	License ID:	7315
Street:	611 10th St	City:	Harlan	IA Zip Code:	51537
County:	Shelby				
Mailing Address:	PO Box 486				
Mailing City:	Harlan	IA Zip Code:	51537		
Director's Name:	Abigail Hester	Center Phone Number:	712-755-2086		
On-Site Supervisors:	Jill Clark	E-Mail Address:	director@timefortots.ngo, asstdirector@timefortots.ngo		

Date of Complaint: 05-28-2026**Date of Visit:** 06-01-2026☐ Scheduled ☒ Unannounced ☐ NA☒ Non-Compliance with Regulations Found ☐ Compliance with Regulations Found**RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE**☒ NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended☐ PROVISIONAL license from to☐ SUSPENSION of License☐ REVOCATION of License**Complaint Details:**Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ NoDid this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No**Summary of Complaint:**

On 5/28/26, a two-year-old male was left unattended on the playground.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.10(14)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

Inspection Findings:

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On 5/28/26, my coworker contacted the child care center. They were aware of the incident and stated that there is a plan in place. The plan is for the child to hold the staff member's hand to ensure he safely gets inside the building after playing outside. It was stated that staff counted the kids. When she went to the door, the child took off back to the playground and she did not notice it as they walked inside the building. The worker did not count as kids were walking in. The next count was completed when they got back to the classroom and that is when it was noticed the child was not in the count.

I corresponded with my coworker about the allegations. My coworker and I were unable to schedule a time to go to the center together, so she was going to go on 5/29/26. I told her I would go on 6/1/26.

On 6/1/26, I met with Abigail, the Director at Time for Tots Early Learning Center. She reported the incident happened on 5/28/26 around 10:30 AM. The staff member, M.P., lined the kids up, counted them, and then walked inside. She sat down inside the room and realized she was missing one child. Before she could do anything, a Head Start worker from next door brought him inside the building. Abigail estimated the child was outside alone for less than one minute. It should be noted that Head Start and Time for Tots share a playground. Time for Tots Early Learning Center and Head Start share an entrance into their centers from the playground.

I then met with M.P. She said it happened on Thursday when they were transitioning from outside to inside. She counted the children before they came in. She had all seven kids. When she got inside the room, she realized she didn't have seven kids. She estimated it was about 30 seconds. She said they hadn't even started their next activity yet. M.P. was making her way to the door and Head Start staff had brought the child inside the building. After the child returned to the room, M.P. counted again and then notified Abigail. M.P. said the child is new to her room. This happened on his first day in her room. She said she has the kids line up but they end up in a group and not a straight line.

The cameras at Time for Tots do not cover the hallway or playground. Head Start has a camera that views a little bit of the playground. I went to Head Start and had the director show me the video footage. In the video I observed M.P. walking around the playground keeping an eye on all of the children. I observed M.P. gather the kids and take them to the door. I was unable to see if there was a straight line due to the view of the camera. It looks like M.P. just told all the children to go inside. That was at 10:27 AM. The child was on the other side of the playground on a piece of equipment. After viewing the video, I was unable to determine if M.P. could see the child but I believe she should have been able to if she was walking around the playground like she appeared to be. M.P. and the kids go inside. The child was seen in the video walking in front of the area the Head Start kids were playing and a staff member took him to the door. It's unclear if the Head Start staff called him over. I believe the Head Start staff and kids come outside right after M.P. and the kids go inside. The video does not show Head Start staff going inside, but according to M.P., the staff brought him to the door. This was at 10:28 AM. Due to the angle of the camera, I'm unable to determine if M.P. lined the kids up and did a head count but it seems unlikely. M.P. reported she noticed he was missing as soon as she got inside the room and counted only six. It was at that point the Head Start staff walked him inside. Based on what was observed, it seems like he was outside less than a minute. The room where the kids were at is right inside the door. There is a short hallway, maybe 10-15 feet, and then you are at the center's door that the child is in.

Because M.P. didn't follow protocols for supervision, the center is FOUND TO BE IN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH LICENSING REGULATION 109.10(14)A AS IT PERTAINS TO SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN.

Special Notes and Action Required:

The day of the incident was the first day the child was in M.P.'s classroom. He was not used to their procedures; regardless, M.P. should have done a head count when they lined up, as they walked inside the door, and after they got inside the room. The center has devised a plan that M.P. will hold the child's hand until he becomes accustomed to the way things work in M.P.'s classroom. The center should consider purchasing a rope that the children hold onto when they transition from one place to another.

Consultant's Signature:

Tausha Bottorff

Date:

06-25-2026