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

Name of Center: Northern Dallas County Head Start **Enrollment:** 81 **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: 04-10-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-04-2025

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

Date Inspected: 03-13-2025

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: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-11-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/10/25. 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 in a variety of activities that included fine motor skill activities facilitated by staff, playing on the playground, washing hands, brushing teeth, being held while bottle fed, and tummy time while being supervised by staff.

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.

Weekly staff meetings are held.

The program 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.

Monthly newsletters are sent home to parents (again in English and Spanish). The program also uses See Saw to communicate with parents

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 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. There are several staff who have worked at this program for many years.

Files were nicely organized.

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

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

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.
The only items on diapering tables should be items used for diapering (no toys).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years and was last completed 4/5/24 - 4/9/24. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. In the future, all seven classrooms should be tested. Because radon 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 on 4/9/25.

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. Staff should continue to upload their training hours/certificates.

It is highly recommended Boppy pillows be removed from classrooms.

An older version of this consultant's contact information was posted. The most current posting was emailed after the visit concluded.

Management should double check to make sure all child information that is posted is signed off on by the parent so that the information can be posted in general view.

It is recommended the transportation/field trip and photo permission form be updated annually like other children's information.

It is recommended another nut be screwed in on some bolts underneath one climbing structure out on the playground.

Staff in classrooms should check daily the plastic lock hinges on cabinets to make sure they are functioning properly.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.