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

Name of Center: Tri-County Head Start-Lily Furgerson **Enrollment:** 48 **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): Shayla Stevenson **E-Mail:** rwelch@teamtricounty.org

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-07-2025

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

Date Inspected: 11-19-2024

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 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 06-03-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/30/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Tri-County Head Start-Lily Furgerson in Waterloo. I met with Shayla Stevenson, the program manager and on-site supervisor. She started with Head Start in April 2024. She has a BA in elementary education and a master's degree in educational administration. She is working toward her doctoral degree in educational leadership. There are fifteen staff members employed at the program.

Priscilla Vergara is the family worker. She meets with families in the home to provide support and assist with community resources. Dr. Robert Welch is the director of the early childhood programs operated by Tri-County Head Start. He started in December 2020. His office is in the administration office in Waterloo. Angela Barth is the Education Services Director. She started with Head Start in January 2017.

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 48 children enrolled.

The center operates out of five 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 15-18 months-old (Koalas), a room for children 18 months through two-years-olds (Joyful Jaguars), a room for two and three-year-olds (Proud Pandas), and a room for three through five-year-olds (Leading Leopards). 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. They use Second Step for social/emotional skills. 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 some of the classrooms. Emergency numbers must be posted in the Dreaming Dragonflies, Koalas, and Joyful Jaguars. Staff members communicate with one another using two-way radios. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by some of the main program doors and outdoor exits. Please post the evacuation diagrams near all the exits out of a classroom and the Great room. 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 July 2023 and is good for five 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 11/19/24.

Head Start participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Lunch is delivered to the center from the Head Start Learning and Community Center in Waterloo. Breakfast and snack are prepared by staff members. 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. The temperature of the refrigerator in the infant room as 50 degrees. It should be 40 degrees or lower. Please keep an eye on this.

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. Please update my contact poster with my new email address and the new HHS website. 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 and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed sixteen children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members provide a positive and fun learning environment for the children. They greeted parents and children as they arrived for the day. I observed staff members on the floor actively engaged with the children. They introduced activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Staff members were patient and provided the children with praise, while also talking with them about green choices. Positive redirection and PBIS techniques were used when necessary. Staff members were spread out in the rooms to provide full supervision. They are flexible with the schedule to meet the needs of the children. Staff members worked one on one with the children to work on skills and perform assessments. I observed children on staff laps and they were nurturing and attentive. There is a lot of enthusiasm among staff members and they modeled good manners. They were patient and kind. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Stevenson states the staff members are dedicated and committed. Even when they have personal things going on they show up for the children. She states the staff members will also work longer hours and work in the rooms where they are needed.

Ms. Stevenson states the staff members give her great ideas and reminders of what needs to be done.

Ms. Stevenson states the staff members show the children and families love. She states it is important to love the children.

This site was recently remodeled. The rooms have new floors, carpet, cupboards, sinks, counters and they painted.

Traveling Tales visits the program to read to the children.

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

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 meets with families at least four times each year. They make two home visits and have two conferences at the program.

Each classroom prepares a monthly newsletter for families and Tri County Head Start does a monthly newsletter.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Make sure to post emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number in all the rooms and post the evacuation diagrams near all the exits out of the classrooms.

An administrative change is being made to name Shayla Stevenson as the on-site supervisor.

*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.