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

Name of Center: Essex Child Center **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6955

Street: 513 Iowa AVE **City:** Essex Iowa **Zip** 51638 **County:** Page

Mailing Address: PO Box 421, Essex, IA, 51638

Director's Name: Tonja Stoaks **Phone Number:** 712-379-3870

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** essexcc@heartland.net

Date(s) of Visit: 11-15-2022

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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 X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 09-30-2021

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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	12	10	20	17	59
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 11-28-2022

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Essex Child Care Center on 11-15-2022. The center is a nonprofit corporation owned by the community of Essex, Iowa. The hours of operation are 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The center is located on the main street of Essex. It is a large store front building. Child care services are offered to infants to school age children. Tonya Stoaks became the director in January 2014, she has worked at the center for many years. Chelsea is in charge when Tonja is gone. I met with Tonja Stoaks during my licensing visit.
There are 49 children enrolled in the center.

Observation of rooms:
The program rooms looked nice and were in ratio. The center uses Brightwheel for children and staff log in, and the children's daily sheets. The daily sheets looked great, staff and parents communicate throughout the day through the Brightwheel app. The children's fun art work was displayed.
Most of the children were observed during nap time, staff were attentive to the needs of the children. The rooms had a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.
Each program room has a curriculum and the staff develop the lesson plans/activities.

Nutrition:
The center uses the school for catering breakfast and lunch each day. The center provides the snack. The center is on the federal food program. Proper food storage was observed in the kitchen. The center posts a monthly menu. There were thermometers in the refrigerators/freezers in the kitchen.

Health and safety:
Six radon tests were completed in August 2022, two rooms are being retested due to the reading of NA, Tonja is thinking of retesting other rooms with test results of 4.0 pCi/L, 3.8 pCi/L and 3.9 pCi/L.
Medication management procedures are followed.
Tonya stated the center has a gas water heater, please have an annual fuel burning inspection.
The monthly fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented.
Proper sanitizing and disinfecting procedures were used.

Playground:
The playground has one piece of Little Tykes commercial grade equipment with slides and picnic tables. The equipment is for children 18 months to 10 years old. The center has a shade structure, and poured in place surfacing.
Monthly playground safety inspections were documented.

Transportation:
The school bus provides transportation for the four year preschool program and the preschool age children. The program also takes walking field trips to the park and library.

Administrative records:

The center has all of the required postings - mandatory reporting of child abuse, consultant information, no smoking, and emergency information.
Staff files were read and were in excellent order.
Child files were read and were in excellent order.
Tonya has monthly staff meetings.
The center has a very active and supportive board and they provide employee engagement/staff activities.
Tonya does the staff fingerprinting for the national record checks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is a wonderful resource for the community and receives community support. Tonya is always enthusiastic, creative and proud of the center.
The center has great staff and some have excellent longevity of working at the center.
Tonya participates in directors meetings.
The center has fundraising events during the year.
The center participates in the Quality Rating System (QRS) they are a level 4.
The center has worked with their Child Care Resource and Referral worker and the child care nurse consultant.
The center receives grants for equipment and supplies. They are looking for a grant to help purchase security cameras.
The arches in the wall were filled in that lead to the school age room.

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

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
Tonya stated the center has a gas water heater, please have an annual fuel burning inspection.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for Essex Child Care for 11-1-2022 to 11-1-2024.

*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.