Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Tinker Tots Preschool

Provider No.: 7382

Address: 1501 Industrial AVE, Bedford, IA, 50833

County: Taylor

Director's Name: April Spargen

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7125232411

E-Mail: tinkertotspreschool@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/10/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/03/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	10	23	13	29	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Tinker Tots Preschool, Inc. on 6/10/26. Tinker Tots Preschool built a new center at 1501 Industrial Ave., Bedford, Iowa, 50833 and opened in November 2021. This is a nonprofit center that is run by the board. The board is very supportive of the center. The director left on 5/29/26. A new director has been hired, but she will not start until 7/1/26. Please send me all documentation and enter the new director's information into I-PoWeR to make sure she has the necessary qualifications. Some of the board members are assisting in the center during the time there is no director present. One staff member identified herself as an on-site supervisor, but she does not meet the requirements to be an on-site supervisor. The President of the Board, April Spargen, is going to become the director until the new director starts and is eligible. Child care services are offered to infants to school age children, Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There are 64 children enrolled. I met with Loren, who reported she was the on-site supervisor, and board members Sarah Guillatt and Lynn Stamps during my visit. Please make sure background checks are completed on the board members that are volunteering in-between directors.

Observation of rooms:
When I arrived, the children had been playing in the rain and water. They were just entering the building. Wednesdays are "Water Wednesdays". There are five programming rooms and two of the programming rooms have nap rooms. The center partners with Head Start for the preschool room. Three rooms including the infant room, wobblers room, and school age room were being used during my visit. The rooms were not in ratio. Children under the age of four years old were combined with school age children. This is not allowed. No children under the age of four years old can be combined with children four and over. The rooms look great and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment and supplies. Staff were positive and attentive to the children's needs. The children were having fun. Staff in the programming rooms are responsible for preparing the lesson plans/activities. The lesson plans were not completed in all of the rooms. The

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infant room has exersaucers and bouncers. Staff report using the exersaucers and bouncers for 15-20 minutes depending on the baby's mood. They use them three to four times a day. I instructed staff that the children should not be in either for more than 15 minutes at a time and no more than twice a day. The daily sheets looked good. They are on the Procare app. There was not a separate can for diapers than other waste. There are disinfecting directions posted and the infant room had all necessary postings. The toddler room is for 24-36 months; however, they were combined with the school age children during my visit. There was not a separate can for diapers than other waste. The wobbler room is for 12-24 months. There were three children and one staff present. One of the children was almost three years old. This child should not be with children under the age of two years old. Children from infant age to two years old are to be free from the intrusion of children two years old and older. Staff use the same sink for handwashing and filling water bottles in two different rooms. I talked with staff about disinfecting the sink before filling water bottles if they need to be refilled during the day. The preschool room did not have any toilet paper; however, the center is not using the room this week. They generally start with filling them in the kitchen at the beginning of the day and only fill them in the room if they need to be refilled. I talked with the board members about the age requirements for the different rooms. Sarah Guilliatt rearranged the rooms so they would be in ratio and based on age guidelines.

Nutrition:
The center employs a cook. The center participates in the federal food program. Proper food storage was not observed. I observed pasta and crackers that were not sealed properly. Please seal and label all food in airtight containers after opening. The infant room did not have a thermometer in the freezer. Menus are posted in the rooms and are posted on the Procare App.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills have not been practiced or documented since January. Please complete drills monthly and document. There are latches on the emergency doors that prevent the children from pulling down on the emergency exit door handle. Board members informed me that the fire marshal had been there and never said anything about it. I encouraged them to talk to the fire marshal to make sure this is allowed. Emergency diagrams and phone numbers are posted Radon testing needs to be completed. The center has fuel burning appliances. Board members reported their HVAC is serviced twice a year but did not have documentation of a fuel burning inspection. The center follows medication management procedures when a child is on medication. Staff must be med certified to dispense medication. Bleach water is used for sanitizing and Oxivir TB is used for disinfecting. Please refer to your specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions. If the directions aren't on the bottle, go to the website listed on the bottle for mixing instructions. If you are using Oxivir Tb for disinfecting, you can also use it for sanitizing. The three step bottle procedure is used for sanitizing and disinfecting: 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. Your EPA approved product for disinfecting and sanitizing product. Refer to the specific bottle of bleach you are using for mixing instructions or the website listed on the bottle of bleach. Disinfecting is for diaper changing. Sanitizing is for food surface areas and hard surface toys. Toys are sanitized daily. Sheets are washed weekly. In the infant room, staff sometimes wash bottles in the handwashing sink. They only have one sink in the room. I instructed staff that if they are going to wash bottles in the handwashing sink, they must disinfect the sink prior to washing the bottles.

Playground:
There is a playground for school-age children and the other side has a playground for preschool and toddler age children. There is a playground for infant age children. Monthly inspections have not been completed or documented since January. Please complete and document monthly playground inspections.

Transportation:
The program doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were reviewed. Two were missing their annual personal development training hours. One was missing a current SING background check, current first aid/CPR training, and a current physical exam. Please complete the background checks immediately. Ten children's files were reviewed. Only one was complete. Six were missing contact information for a dentist, eight were missing a current physical exam or annual statement of health signed by the parents, three were missing permission to secure emergency care in the event of an emergency, three were missing permission for field trips, three were missing annual permission as to who is allowed to pick up the child, and three were missing current immunization records. The center provides a monthly newsletter. Staff meetings are held monthly. The enter was IQ4K Level 3. They plan on reapplying once the new director starts.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is an excellent resource for the community. Staff were attentive to the needs of the children. The center continues to receive equipment and supplies from grants. The center was IQ4K level 3. They will reapply once the new director starts. The board members identified the center's strengths as having good staff and some staff members have excellent longevity. They have events and fundraisers throughout the year. The center participates in TEACH and WAGE$.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(1): Centers with multiple sites have a qualified director or on-site supervisor at all sites. Information on the director's qualifications is submitted to the consultant prior to employment and is sufficient to make a determination. Center director meets qualifications or is "qualifiable" with a plan established to meet qualifications. Currently, there is no director present. The previous director left on 5/29/26 and the new director doesn't start until 7/1/26. The new director has not yet been approved by the licensing consultant.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Three staff files were reviewed. Two were missing their annual personal development training hours. One was missing a current SING background check, current first aid/CPR training, and a current physical exam.

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required: Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present. At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting. If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained. Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained. When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present. For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center's hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center. Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded. Children under the age of four years old were combined with children four years old and older.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. Ten children's files were reviewed. Only one was complete. Six were missing contact information for a dentist, eight were missing a current physical exam or annual statement of health signed by the parents, three were missing permission to secure emergency care in the event of an emergency, three were missing permission for field trips, three were missing annual permission as to who is allowed to pick up the child, and three were missing current immunization records.

109.10(3): Infectious disease control: Centers shall establish policies and procedures related to infection disease control and use of universal precautions with handling of bodily fluid. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste. There were two rooms that did not have separate cans for diapers and other waste.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year. Monthly fire and tornado drills are not practiced and documented. REPEAT

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Monthly playground inspections are not being completed and documented. REPEAT

109.11(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted. There is no documentation that shows a radon test has been completed. REPEAT

109.11(8)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. there

is no documentation that shows an annual fuel burning inspection has been completed. REPEAT

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents. Not all of the rooms had lesson plans. REPEAT

109.12(4)a: A safe and properly equipped area is provided for infants that does not allow for intrusion by children over two years of age. Children over age two who remain in the infant area are placed at the recommendation of a physician or AEA due to a significant developmental delay. Children are placed for a limited time with HHS approval if doing so does not pose a threat to the infants. Children two years old and older were combined in a room with children under the age of two.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. Food must be sealed in an airtight container and labeled after opening. There was no thermometer in the freezer in the infant room. REPEAT

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended from 8/1/26 to 8/1/28.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Sarah Guilliatt and Lynn Stamps their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. The center has access to a licensed social worker who does Circle of Security which is a partnership between the center and the county. The social worker works with staff to educate them about adult stressors and children's mental health. They talk a lot about deescalation with kids and for staff. The director would remove kids if they were displaying significant behaviors. The county pays for the licensed social worker and then the social worker trains the staff.

I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to discuss sanitizing and disinfecting products and to make sure they are using sanitizing and disinfecting products correctly. It is also recommended the nurse consultant make sure the center is using the correct mixing instructions for the bleach water. I made a referral to Child Care Resource and Referral to work with the new director once she starts and to address the areas that fall below licensing standards. The center needs assistance updating all children's and staff files.

Date: 06/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.