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

Name of Center: Tiny Treasures Daycare Center, LLC **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52217

Street: 214 N 6th ST **City:** Estherville Iowa **Zip** 51334 **County:** Emmet

Mailing Address: 214 N 6th ST, Estherville, IA, 51334

Director's Name: Taetym Fredericksen **Phone Number:** 712-209-3563

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** michellehowing@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-17-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-30-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-06-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	9	6	9	9	33
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-10-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-23-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was made to the Tiny Treasures Daycare Center on 08-17-23 where I met with Michelle Howing, and Taetym Fredericksen. The program recently changed ownership and Michelle is the owner and currently operating the center as a for profit program but will be transitioning it to a non-profit center overseen by a board of directors. Taetym is the center director and is well qualified for the position having prior experience and training working at the center under the previous ownership and was granted an exception to policy as she would not meet the age requirement until December of this year. The program is located in a remodeled office space near the downtown area of Emmetsburg. The center provides full range child care serving infants through school age children. There are currently 31 children enrolled in the program served by 7 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were previously reviewed during a licensing visit under the prior owner in June, and the general operation of the program has not changed and the primary focus of the current visit was to conduct a review of administrative records with a brief review of the general operation of the program.

The general layout and design of the building remains the same as in the previous visit. The program makes use of 3 rooms with one for infants, one for children 2-3 years of age, and one for preschool and school age children. Each room has secondary exits that provide direct egress to the outdoors. All exit doors were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. The infant room does make use of evacuation cribs and it was noted during the visit that items were being stored in one of the designated evacuation cribs. It was reviewed that while evacuation cribs can be used for child sleeping they should be maintained clear of obstructions being stored in or under the cribs so that they are readily accessible if needed for evacuation. The center does make use of a basement area for tornado shelter and a safety latch was installed to prevent the children from opening the door. This does need to be removed or modified so that the door can be opened with a single action in the event of an emergency. The infant and 2-3 year old rooms have sinks located in the room to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located off the main corridors with one near the main entry, and one at the back between the toddler and preschool rooms. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of low shelves, furniture, and play structures which are arranged so that there are no blind areas.

All classrooms have activity centers that include options such as large manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading with increasing options for children as their age and developmental levels increase to include small manipulatives, dramatic play, puzzles/table games, and group learning. The toys and materials present were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The issues with regard to toys that could present a choking risk to younger age groups and other concerns had been removed. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted and were being followed. The center was making use of just two of the classrooms during the visit and it was reviewed that recent changes to Licensing Standards that allow for increased child to staff ratios does include restrictions for combined age groups. Those restrictions include that children under 3 years of age are not be combined with children over 4 years of age, and children 3 years of age are not combined with children over 6 years of age. The center does have the ability to use the third classroom, or further divide the preschool/school age classroom. Good interactions were observed with the teachers being engaged with the children and attending to their needs.

Good health and safety practices were observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. During the visit I was able to

observe a diaper change and staff did not wash the infant's hands following the change. This was identified as an issue in the prior visit as well and as a reminder all children must have their hands washed following diaper changes regardless of age or whether they touched any contaminated surfaces. For young infants that may have difficulty with using soap and running water it was reviewed that a paper towel or cloth could be wetted and have soap applied for washing and a separate towel/cloth used to rise. It was clarified that diaper wipes are not an acceptable alternative to hand washing. Good cleaning practices were observed with the staff cleaning the tables prior to meal service and when children were not in the immediate area. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. Over the counter medications were labeled and properly stored. A first aid kit was present in the center and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good safe sleep practices were observed during the time of the visit.

The center does have a small outdoor space attached to the facility but due to the commercial zone nature of the location the space is limited. As a result the center does make use of local public parks, and other facilities for outdoor play. The space that is attached does have a dramatic play house, some toys, and a child sized picnic table. There are no climbing structures. Shade is provided by the building and mature trees. The space is fully enclosed by fencing.

The center does have a limited kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the menu was posted and provided a good variety of nutritious meal options. The meal served on the day of my visit was consistent with what was planned on the menu. Good food handling and storage practices were observed in the kitchen. Meals were pre-portioned in the kitchen with staff wearing food service gloves and using measured scoops. Meals were brought to the classroom where they were served. While the staff did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the table.

In reviewing administrative records the required notices for consultant contact, mandatory reporting, no smoking, and license certificate were present and posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. The center does have an electronic file system, Playground, but is currently making use of hard copy files. With the change of ownership the center has had all parents complete new enrollment packets. All files have been updated with the exception of 4 that needed a renewed physical. The center also created new staff files for all employees with conducting new background checks, and having all staff obtain recertification for all required trainings that have expired. The center handbooks were previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies and the Michelle identified that they will continue to use those handbooks with only minor modifications to reflect any changes in ownership such as contacts, fees, etc.. Inspection logs and certificates were not available for Radon, or Fuel Burning Appliances but the center is in the process of scheduling these.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

While the program had a significant change with new ownership and addition plans to change to a non-profit status this was done in a manner that sought to minimize any disruption to the on-going services of the program.

The center is looking at options to partner with a neighboring church to provide a formal preschool program and also expand for more school age programming.

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

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- Infants' hands were not washed following diaper changes.

109.11(7)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.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

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.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan

of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.