Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Northern Dallas County Head Start

Provider No.: 28405

Address: 2816 First Ave, Perry, IA, 50220

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Tonya Weber

On-Site Supervisor: Becky Freeman

Phone Number: 5154655972

E-Mail: tweber@newopp.org

HHS Visit Date: 04/13/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/13/2025

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations.

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	8:20 AM to 2:50 PM		
Tuesday	8:20 AM to 2:50 PM		
Wednesday	8:20 AM to 2:50 PM		
Thursday	8:20 AM to 2:50 PM		
Friday	8:20 AM to 2:50 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	16	60	0	92
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 4/13/26. The New Opportunities Head Start Program Supervisor was present throughout the inspection. The on-site supervisor was present for a portion of this inspection as she was in ratio in one of the classrooms.

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. On the day of the inspection, there were 82 children enrolled.

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 inspection, all of the Early Head Start children were napping. Cot spacing needs to be at least three feet apart between napping children. There was also one classroom that was too dark in one half of the room. More lighting was needed. In one classroom, children were eating lunch. Staff were sitting with the children at the child-size tables and chairs. Toys, cots, cribs, and other equipment are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily. Children in the classroom not yet taking naps gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

NUTRITION: The center serves children breakfast, lunch, and a PM snack. Lunch is provided by the Perry School District. The center prepares and serves children breakfast and the PM snack. The center has a kitchen and staff take turns preparing meals. Children eat in their classrooms. All food storage was sufficient. The food menu met CACFP requirements.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school district for any field trips. The center will also bring agencies into the center for presentations to children.

PLAYGROUND: The center has a playground for younger children and a playground for older children. The older playground has a shade structure and a separate garden area. No issues were noted with either playground. Daily playground inspections are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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 interactions were observed.

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.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct

observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing.
Spacing between napping children should be three feet apart. There were a few areas observed where this was a foot or less.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
There was not enough lighting in one area of a classroom where children were napping. It is recommended that part of the curtain on the window be open and a lamp be placed in an area inaccessible to children somewhere in the other half of the room

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing is due every five 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 and is again scheduled for 4/16/26.

Each classroom has a functioning carbon monoxide detector.

Daily playground checks are conducted.

I- Power was discussed at the visit. All staff will need to be sure their training certificates and hours are being uploaded to their specific profiles.

The most current diapering procedures were emailed to the center after the inspection concluded.

For more problematic child behaviors, the center has meetings/debriefings each day to discuss what is going on in the classroom and/or with children in those classrooms. Communication between staff and with parents is stressed daily. The center focuses on positive guidance and redirection of children. If staff need a short break, the center uses their staff "tap out" protocols for a short period of time (teamwork).

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Date: 04/15/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.