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

**Name of Center:** The Tiger Den Inc **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16178

**Street:** 2002 15th AVE **City:** Eldora Iowa **Zip** 50627 **County:** Hardin

**Mailing Address:** 2002 15th AVE, Eldora, IA, 50627

**Director's Name:** Diane Bunger **Phone Number:** 641-858-2273

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** **E-Mail:** cjeske@heartofiowa.net
thetigerden@heartofiowa.net

**Date(s) of Visit:** 08-03-2023

**Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** X **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:** 09-08-2021

**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 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 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 37 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-04-2023

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

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced annual visit was made to The Tiger Den Inc. daycare center on 08-03-23 where I met with center director Diane Bunger. Diane has been the director of this program since 1994. The center is located in a residential building making use of the upper level which does have direct ground level access on one side. The lower level has been used as a rental residence though it is currently unoccupied. While the renter does not have open access to the center, there is an agreement that the lower level is accessible to the center as an emergency storm shelter. Diane did report that the building had recently been sold to a new owner and there is a possibility that the lower level may be made available to the center. The program is operated as a non-profit entity overseen by a board of directors. The center provides daycare programming to infants through school age children. There are approximately 45 children currently enrolled in the program served by 5 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the center remains the same as in prior reports. The center makes use of two rooms with the larger open space serving the preschool and school age children, and the other smaller room designated for infants. It was reviewed that due to recent changes in Licensing Standards the center would need to request an exception to policy for the combined age group room for the 2 year old to school age children. Both rooms have direct secondary egress to the outdoors. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. As noted the program makes use of an enclosed space on the lower level as a tornado shelter. An evacuation crib is present in the infant room and was also clear of obstruction. Each room has windows on the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. Restrooms are located off the main classroom space and an additional sink is located in each classroom to facilitate hand washing. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate maintenance issues noted.

Toys and materials were present in the center and maintained on shelves around the edges of the room to leave a larger open space in the middle of each room. The toys were generally observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The center does have a daily schedule and a copy of the planned curriculum posted. The planned curriculum was noted to be very basic primarily identifying special activities that were to be engaged in such as going to the pool. While the planned curriculum during the summer generally has a less structured approach it was reviewed that the center has identified a central theme in the past for summer programming and Diane identified that they do still follow that system and she was still working on the plan for August. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age. Good interactions were observed both in the infant classroom and the classroom with the older children. In the infant room the teacher was observed to be down on the floor with the children reading a story, playing with them, and attending to their needs. In the preschool/school age room the teachers were also engaged with the children. This included taking the children outside to engage in self-directed large motor play, returning inside for a teacher lead group activity, and then a quiet activity of watching a video as the teachers assisted children individually in preparation for lunch. The teachers were also observed to use positive behavior management techniques in several situations providing reminders and redirection. When children did not respond to that approach timeout was used with the teacher sitting with the children.

Good Health and Safety policies and procedures were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. I was able to observe a diaper change on the day of my visit proper procedures were followed though the teacher did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials. One issue that was noted however is that the cleaning product used to clean

the changing station was not a disinfectant. This was identified in the prior report and it was reviewed with Diane that approved disinfectants can be identified by the presence or variants of the word "Disinfect" and an EPA Registry Number. The center will need to purchase an approved disinfectant and ensure that staff read and follow the label directions of use. Items such as purses, diaper bags, and chemical cleaners were stored where they were not accessible to children. Good Safe Sleep practices were observed. First aid kits are maintained in the center and were stocked with a minimal supply of items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands, and did so in an effective manner.

The kitchen was observed to be clean with good food handling practices in place. Staff were observed to wear food service gloves and use measured scoops when serving children. Several food options present in the center are not considered to be fully compliant with the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) nutritional credibility requirements. As examples sugary cereals, hotdogs that are not 100% beef, and potato chips would not be credible. It was reviewed that once these items are depleted the center will need to replace them with credible options. DIane confirmed that she is aware of the CACFP Shopper Application as an option to assist in purchasing credible options. Good food storage practices were generally observed but a couple items were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after having the original packaging seal was broken. A copy of the menu was posted. Meals are served in the preschool/school age room where tables and high chairs were present. While staff did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the tables.

The playground consists of a fenced space with three play surfaces that include a grassy area, paved riding path, and an area that has pea gravel for surfacing where the children can dig. There are no climbing structures present on the playground. A variety of toys and materials are available for the children to play with. Large mature trees provide ample shade. It was noted that several retention clips used to secure the fence to the support posts were missing or broken allowing the fence to flex away from the posts and these need to be replaced.

A review of administrative records found that all required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible to all parents and visitors. A random selection of 8 (20%) of the full enrollment of child files were reviewed. Of those 6 needed an updated physical. Diane did acknowledge that she was just beginning to review files and would be notifying parents of needed updates. All staff files were reviewed and of those 2 had not completed all required training within the first 90 days of employment, 1 needed a renewed Iowa SING background check, and 1 had a physical that was not on the required form. All inspections logs and certificates were available and current.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center has continued to maintain stability and also have some growth with both child enrollment and staffing. The enrollment of the center increased by about 30% from the prior year and Diane noted that this include more school age children.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The center needs to ensure that an approved disinfectant is acquired for use and that staff read and follow the label directions. Approved disinfectants would include any that have an EPA Registry Number for use as a disinfectant. Missing fence clips for the playground fence need to be replaced.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall

provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
-- Non-credible food options were present and being served. These need to be replaced with options that meet CACFP guidelines.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license will remain in effect 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.