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

Name of Center: Trinity Early Childhood Academy **Enrollment:** 96 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 41918

Street: 1361 7th AVE SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 1361 7th AVE SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

Director's Name: Jessica Kinney **Phone Number:** 319-362-6952

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jessica Kinney **E-Mail:** kinneyj@trinitycr.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-01-2022

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	10	10	44	25	89
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 12-01-2022

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Trinity Early Childhood Academy (TECA) became licensed in August, 2013. This program is non-profit and operates under a board of directors. TECA is located inside the Trinity Lutheran School building. The program operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. TECA serves preschool through school-age children. The following programs are included in this license: extended school-age childcare (outside of school hours and includes a summer academy program), preschool-age childcare, AK private learning experience, 3-year-old private preschool program and toddler program (ages 18mo to 30mo). Current enrollment is 96.

Combined director/on-site supervisor of TECA Jessica Kinney. Ms. Kinney has been in this position since November 2022. Ms. Kinney has an associates degree in liberal arts, 12 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/14/2022, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

TECA is a well established program offering a variety of programming services to help meet the educational needs of families and children. TECA is celebrating their 9th year of providing licensed early learning and childcare. Congratulations! The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a predominantly urban community.

TECA has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their program: https://www.trinitycr.org/childcare.

The mission of TECA is "...to know Christ, to make Christ known through education...We are teaching children how to learn, not just in preschool, but all through their lives. We are allowing them to learn at their own pace and in the ways that are best for them..."

TECA has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS and local quality initiatives. Ms. Kinney discussed future goals of participating in IQ4K.

TECA is a ministry of the Trinity Lutheran Church and is located inside the Trinity Lutheran School. Trinity Lutheran School has been the church's greatest mission since 1884 continuing to expand it's early childhood opportunities. Trinity Lutheran School is accredited by the State of Iowa's educational accreditation program. Trinity Lutheran School has also been through an intensive accreditation process with the National Lutheran School Association, and received one of the highest accreditation rankings within their program. TECA operates under a board of directors. Trinity Lutheran Church and School do include TECA in their newsletters and many events (e.g. annual sweets and treats shoppe with music program, Treasure Swap, Cookie Walk, seasonal programming). School administration, church administration, church custodial staff, school custodial staff, school kitchen personnel and the board help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. There is an AED on-site.

While TECA ownership has remained consistent, there have been some changes in staffing including the hiring of a new combined director/on-site supervisor Jessica Kinney. Ms. Kinney is new to management but has been employed specifically with TECA for over 2 years. Ms. Kinney is organized and working to ensure systems of organization are updated and in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management and staff are knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures. TEAC encourages staff to participate in training hours beyond what is required by Iowa Code including participation in the annual Lutheran Education Association Convention and Iowa AEYC fall institute. Ms. Kinney discussed the great combination of seasoned and new staff at TECA. Ms. Kinney talked about how the seasoned staff have jumped right into helping lead and model for new staff, while all staff have been gracious to assist in whatever capacity needed. Ms. Kinney reported the staff have great ideas and she's excited to allow them many opportunities to collaborate.

TECA has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the historic 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2019 pandemic.

TECA continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program communication center, offers regular program newsletters, quarterly newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, has an established social media page for families, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included book fairs, fundraising events, Read and Feed, annual Trunk or Treat, Walk-A-Thon, holiday parties, and family activity night. Ms. Kinney acknowledged having excellent parents and attending families with many new enrollments from word of mouth.

Building and grounds remain in good repair. Since the last review, the program obtained a new refrigerator and new wheeled carts for easer transition of large gross motor materials. New outdoor garden boxes were established with possible future summer gardening enrichments. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. TECA offers Christian learning experiences with Creative Curriculum to help children become independent, self confident, inquisitive learners. Curriculum also incorporates social emotional growth, kindergarten readiness skills, guest speaker events, off-site field experiences, seasonal celebrations, and various enrichment experiences.

TECA partners well with those throughout the community including the local school district, early access persons, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals.

Staff engage each child in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study "The Earth Beneath Our Feet" and upcoming Thanksgiving. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, large gross motor supplies, skill based crafts supplies) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, daily greeting/program arrival rituals, clever turn-around/sit-down technique observed) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.9(2): All child files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
- Child file RA lacked documentation of an annual update.
- Child files EF and RA lacked complete name, address, and telephone number of dentist and doctor (EF).
- Child files EF and RA lacked documentation of immunizations on the required IDPH Certificate of Immunization.
- Child file RA lacked documentation of a current annual physical exam.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure one child's personal items (e.g. bedding, winter attire) are stored separately from every other child's personal items as this will help with sanitation and decrease the transmission of illness. The 3yo room was observed to have more children enrolled than individual child cubbies to accommodate the storage of each child's personal items. Remedy.

Ensure toilet plungers (e.g. place in a bucket) are stored off the floor to help prevent possible bodily fluids from being tracked throughout the program space.

Continue to ensure any child with a special need (e.g. allergy, seizures, diabetes) has a written physician's note documenting the special need, how to properly accommodate (e.g. emergency/rescue plan), and that any necessary items (e.g. rescue mediation, assistive devices) to assist with the special need are present when the child is in attendance. Ms. Kinney discussed how the program has partnered with the local nurse consultant for further assistance and training.

_____

Ms. Kinney discussed being a new director and how she intends to connect with CCR&R for assistance as a new director as well as with starting IQ4K. As a result, licensing is making a referral to help support the collaboration.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.