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

Name of Center: Diagonal Daycare **Enrollment:** 48 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26893

Street: 403 W 2nd ST **City:** Diagonal Iowa **Zip** 50845 **County:** Ringgold

Mailing Address: 403 W 2nd ST, Diagonal, IA, 50845

Director's Name: Sierra England **Phone Number:** 641-734-5331

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** sengland@diagonalschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-04-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-03-2021

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

Date Inspected: 02-21-2025

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	10	10	20	10	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 02-18-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Diagonal Daycare on 2-4-2025 (The center was previously Tina's Tots). The program is located in the Diagonal Community School building. The center provides child care services to infants through school age children, Monday through Friday. The school provides preschool services, the children are in child care when they aren't receiving preschool services. The school is a SFL site for learning for school age children, this is a program offered through the school from 7:00 am to 8:00 am and 3:10 pm to 5:00 pm. School age children are in the child care program before and after the SFL program, in service days and during the summer.
48 children are enrolled.
I met with the director Sierra England on the day of my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
There are three program areas - Infant area, the gym and the two and older room.
The gym is utilized throughout the day. One side of the gym is arranged with activity centers. There is also a large open area of the gym used for trikes, mats and large motor activities. The gym isn't air conditioned.

The rooms were in ratio and the children were observed playing. The center uses the Brightwheel child care app for the daily sheets. The two to three year old room had lesson plans/activities. Sierra reported that a grant for Creative Curriculum was recently submitted. Staff back packs/personal belongings were accessible to the children in the gym area. Make sure staff place purses and personal belongings in an area that isn't accessible to the children.

The school is a SFL site for learning, this is a program offered through the school from 7:00 am to 8:00 am and 3:10 pm to 5:00 pm. School age children are in the child care program before and after the SFL program, in service days and during the summer.
Staff in each room develop the lesson plan/activities. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
Sierra is working on the IQ4K program.

Nutrition:
The school provides the breakfast and lunch. The SFL Sites for Learning provide the snack. Even if you aren't on the federal food program CACFP guidelines must be followed. Menus are posted.

Health and Safety:
The medication management procedures are followed when children are prescribed medication and the medication log is used.
Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented each month.
If your center has fuel burning appliances make sure you have an annual fuel burning inspection/boiler inspection.
Since your center is in a school it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to make sure the testing is completed.
Radon test scores need to be under a 4.0 pCi/L.
Please evaluate the lead based paint annually. Refer to your handbook rule 109.11(7)a.
Sierra has received services from the child care nurse consultant and Child Care Resource and Referral.

Playground:
The center uses the school playground. Monthly playground inspections were completed.

Transportation:
The child care center doesn't provide transportation services.
Walking field trips may be taken around the community if parents have signed field trip authorizations. Ratio is increased by 1 staff on field trips. A first aid kit and emergency contacts need to be taken along.

Administrative records:
Mr. McNutt is the superintendent of the school.
Sierra has daily contact with staff and she has staff meetings.
The center receives grants. The center has a new entrance and new gates.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Sierra is creative and enthusiastic about the program.
Diagonal Daycare is an excellent resource for the community.

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

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.
Staff back packs/personal belongings were accessible to the children in the gym area. Make sure staff place purses and personal belongings in an area that isn't accessible to the children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 2-1-2024 to 2-1-2026.
Off year licensing visit 2-4-2025.

The program building was reported to be constructed in prior to 1960, therefore lead based paint should be evaluated annually. Refer to your handbook rule 109.11(7)a. for instructions on conducting a visual assessment etc.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me at 712 328-4877; email kdegeor@dhs.state.ia.us so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.
*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.

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