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

Name of Center: New Opportunities, Inc Head Start - Jefferson **Enrollment:** 27 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52261

Street: 306 S Vine St **City:** Jefferson Iowa **Zip** 50129 **County:** Greene

Mailing Address: PO Box 426, Carroll, IA, 51401

Director's Name: Tonya Weber **Phone Number:** 515-386-2092

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sandy Day **E-Mail:** tweber@newopp.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-04-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-20-2023

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

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	34	0	34
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 11-15-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/14/24. The on-site supervisor was present throughout the visit as were two other classroom staff members.

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.

New Opportunities Inc, Head Start Jefferson is a newer program located in a classroom of The Children's Center located in Jefferson, IA that was given permission to open on 8/28/23. The program serves children ages three through five years in age during the school year. Classes are held Tuesday - Friday either in the AM (8:00am - 11:30am) or PM (12:00pm - 3:30pm). The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum. The capacity of the classroom is 34 children.

The center is non-profit and overseen by a Board. Tonya Weber is the director of this program as well as all of the other New Opportunities programs. Tonya has a BA and a Master's degree. Tonya has past experience working in child care and has been the director over all of the New Opportunities programs for quite some time. Sandy Day is the on-site supervisor at this location. Sandy has a CDA and also has past experience working in child care and the school district.

During the visit, children, some were observed dismissing for the day and either going home or to the center located within the same building. Children that remained were observed eating lunch. Children stated they washed their hands before sitting down for lunch. Good child-staff interactions were observed and overheard.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a newer program that meets a need in the community. Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The director has a lot of experience working in child care. The director is also the director over all of the New Opportunities Head Start programs. All of the programs run in similar fashion and have continuity.

Staff and child files were nicely organized.

The center uses an electronic application for extra communication with parents. Special events and activities are held throughout the year to keep parents involved and updated on their children's activities, progress, learning, etc.

Weekly and monthly staff meetings are held (with all staff and at times within the different programs).

Staff reportedly work well together.

The program has good community partnerships.

Children receive free dental, vision, and hearing tests.

A radon mitigation system is currently being installed within the building.

The program participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

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. 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.
1. There was still an issue in one area with dangling cords that weren't securely fastened to walls or tucked behind other equipment. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.
2. One tricycle needs a new handlebar. Some portable climbing structures did not have the minimum six foot fall zones (this was corrected during the visit when the playground was observed).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is located within a classroom of The Children's Center (formerly known as Greene County ELC). This is a brand new building that was built in 2022.

Radon testing was completed 11/10/23 - 11/14/23 in the building. Radon levels came back above the 4.0 cutoff. The program (along with The Children's Center) is in the process of having a radon mitigation system installed. Retesting will be needed after this to get levels below 4.0. The program, along with The Children's Center, will remain on a two-year testing plan at least temporarily.

The annual HVAC system was inspected on 10/2/24.

The center does go on field trips and they either walk or contract with the school district for transportation. The program will also bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload their training certificates into I-Power.

*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.