

2019 LIAISON REPORT

Story Time Child Care

Liaison – Eric Adelmund

1. Need for Program

Opening in 1991, Story Time Child Care Center (STCC) provides a licensed daycare for infants through school aged children in rural part of Story County. STCC operates year round and is the only non-home based licensed daycare provider in the area and surrounding towns. Enrollment fluctuates slightly throughout the year due to summer break and school schedules, however the total number of children has remained stable from last year. The cost for childcare at STCC is on a sliding scale bases with a three level pay structure. Without this service, many parents in this area would be without childcare.

2. Program Strengths

The cost for childcare at STCC is on a sliding scale bases with a three level pay structure (depending on parents income and family size). STCC's full enrollment numbers at the time of the visit were four infants (with three more starting before the end of the year), fourteen 2-3 year olds, six 4-5 year olds, and nineteen school aged children. At this time there are 10 children on ASSET funding, a little lower than last year. STCC accepts DHS eligible students and currently has 6 children using this funding. The amount of DHS eligible children at STCC affects ASSET funding requests due to DHS eligible children are not able to qualify for ASSET funds. The amount of DHS and ASSET funded children fluctuate thorough the year based on needs of the community.

STCC has 10 staff members (6 full time, 4 part time). Jayne stated that they increased staff (by one) in the past few years, due to an increase in infants and full time children. In order to accept more infants, STCC is required to follow Iowa code and increase staff numbers.

Inspections through DHS have historically been positive. The center continues to participate in programming through the Heartland AEA including the Positive Behavior Support (PBS), Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, The Learning Box and Handwriting without Tears programs.

3. Program Challenges

The expenses and maintenance of the facility are the primary challenges to STCC. In recent years, new landlords determined that the installation of separate water and electric meters was too costly; and it was decided to increase the STCC share of utilities for the building to 75%; previously STCC paid only 25% of the total utilities bill for the entire building. Maintenance of the building, especially the playground, have become a challenge STCC is facing again this year.

4. Summary

STCC serves a much needed population in the Story County area. STCC does not anticipate any funding cuts from DHS this year and does not receive any federal stimulus dollars.