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

Name of Center: Casey's General Stores Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 86 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27745

Street: 1 SE Convenience Blvd **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1 SE Convenience Blvd, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Chris Moulden **Phone Number:** 515-965-6520

On-Site Supervisor(s): Pam Aagesen **E-Mail:** cmoulden@caseys.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-22-2025

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:** 03-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-07-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Ankeny Fire Dept Lt Tyson Hood

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	26	20	66	14	126
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-21-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was competed 4/22/25. The Director was present throughout the visit.

This program is located in the Casey's corporate office building and has been in existence since 1990. They offer care for children whose parents or grandparents work for Casey's. These family members will often stop down at the center to see their children. This is especially nice for parents of newborns. Chris Moulden has been the director since 1994. She has a degree in Elementary Ed. Pam Aagensen has been the assistant director since 2000. She has her degree in Early Childhood.

The hours of operation are 6:45 am-5:30 pm. Care is offered to infants and children up to age five. During the summer they will offer care to a small group of school age children.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations/activities: This program utilizes Start Teach and Creative Curriculum/Gold for lesson planning and offers an application (Tadpoles) to communicate with parents. The classrooms were observed to offer a good variety of toys and play centers; and were very nicely organized. Staff were in ratio and engaged in leading group activities or attending to individual needs. The children were content and were eating lunch family style in their classrooms during this visit.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen/cafeteria that is shared with Casey's cooperate employee's. Professional staff prepares meals/snacks and this is brought to the center on a food cart. Professional Cafeteria staff/Chef complete the menus which are on a 7 week rotation and appear in line with CACFP.

Health/safety: Medication is mostly given by parents; or by the director and is stored securely. Handwashing signs were posted as required. There are first aid kits on the playground and around the center. Tornado/Fire emergency exit diagrams are posted. Drills are documented to have been completed monthly. Radon had been tested in 2022, with results all under 4.0 and testing not due again until 2027. Cooperate professional maintenance staff inspect and repair HVAC. There is a carbon monoxide detector in the kitchen, but the center could use one with in that level as the kitchen is located on the 2nd level. This center has a disaster or off site evacuation plan that for which staff are trained upon hire and annually.

Playground: This playground offers a variety of age appropriate play structures with a Casey's theme. The playground is enclosed by commercial chain link (more profuse netting to prevent climbing) and is surfaced with artificial turf. There is shade provided by the play structures and the building. The playground is adjacent to a water feature that often is frequented by Geese; but the fencing provides secure separation from the water and while life. This playground is well maintained and playground checks were completed as required.

Transportation: Occasional use of a Casey's cooperate van takes place, usually during the summer for school-age children; this vehicle is maintained by Casey's cooperate maintenance staff.

Administrative Review: Fliers for mandatory reporting; handbook, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted as required. Five staff and employee files were reviewed and contained all required, up to date information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center had funding this year and purchased many new STEM and other toys for the classrooms.

Many of the staff are long term employees at this center. Over half of the staff have a degree in Elementary Education or Early Childhood. The few staff who do not have a college degree have several years of experience working in the field of child care.

There are staff pictures and profiles outside of the classrooms.

The Director has been with the center for 30 years and brings valuable experience and strong leadership to the center.

Both Chris and Pam have taught Early Childhood classes for students at DMACC.

The communication between the teachers is strong and the teachers/staff work well together. The staff are professional and they are passionate about providing quality child care and education to the children they serve.

The center has a strong reputation in the community and is known for providing quality of care.

The children are ready for kindergarten both academically and socially.

The communication between the center and parents is strong. The center sends out a monthly newsletter as well.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center uses Heartland AEA as a resource and a support.

The center receives strong support from the Casey's corporation.

The director focuses on the successes of the staff and talks with them about their goals and what they need for support.

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

There were not aspects of operation identified that fall below standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last radon testing was completed in May of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The center has the heating/cooling system inspected and checked monthly.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The classrooms were observed to have teachers that were actively engaged leading activities or meeting individual needs and the children were content.

*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.