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

Name of Center: Ankeny Lil' Tots Daycare & Preschool LLC **Enrollment:** 174 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43390

Street: 732 SE Shurfine DR **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 732 SE Shurfine DR, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Erica Pierce/Keyara Adams **Phone Number:** 515-965-6754

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** epankenyliltots@hotmail.com Keyara.ankenyliltots@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-20-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-12-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-06-2024

Comments : Completed by Ankeny FD/Tyson Hood; recommendations for improvements/ Per Ankeny FD a follow up visit will take place on/about 6/3/24.

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	57	32	84	45	218
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-03-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 5-20-24. Erica and Keyara, the Directors, were present throughout the visit.

This center opened in June 2014. Karrie Berger is the owner of this center. She was a registered in-home provider for 19 years prior to opening this center. There are two directors. One is Karrie's daughter Keyara Adams who has worked in child care since 2010. The other director is Erica Pierce. She has an associate degree in Early Childhood, and has worked in the field since 2010. Erica and Keyara meet the requirements for their positions.

This center is doing business as Ankeny Lil Tots Learning Academy; the LLC will remain Ankeny Lil' Tots Daycare and Preschool, and ownership remains the same.

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.

This center has 12 classrooms. They also have a 2500 square foot indoor large motor play area located at the front of the center. In addition, they have another indoor/outdoor playground area at the back of the center that is 3000 square foot in size. There is a large play area inside the center, and when the garage door is opened, the children can also play outdoors.

The center provides care to infants up through school age children, starting in June of 2023 they will only go up to 2nd grade for school age care. The center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Room observations/Activities: The center has developed their own curriculum by research of other curriculum's and experience, pulled from Iowa Early Learning standards. The center has researched Handwriting without Tears as well as the Creative curriculum. The center also communicates with the Ankeny school district about their assessments regarding readiness for kindergarten and incorporates this into their curriculum. The rooms were observed in ratio; with staff maintaining good structure and responding in a nurturing manner. There is a variety of play centers and toys in each classroom.

Nutrition Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff. The center is enrolled in the food program and menus appear in-line with CACFP as required. The menus are crafted by the directors and rotated each month. The kitchen was nicely organized and clean with menu's posted. Meals are served family-style in the classrooms.

Health/Safety: Medication is kept secure and accessible by only staff; rescue or emergency medications are kept in the classrooms, secured in fanny packs. Handwashing posters are hung; and first aid kits were observed in the rooms. Tornado and Fire diagrams were in each classroom, and kitchen. Fire/Tornado drills are documented completed monthly. Radon was tested in March 2024 and all under 4.0. The center had a new air conditioning unit installed in May of 2024. It is unclear if carbon monoxide detectors are integrated in the fire alarm system. The center as a whole was clean and organized.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented as complete. The playground is enclosed with chain link and has shade on the play structures. Surfacing is cement and artificial turf. The playground appears in good repair.

Transportation: The center has multi-passenger vans that are professionally maintained. Staff were provided additional training on restraint systems and ratio's when traveling off-campus.

Administrative Review: Fliers regarding mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility; consultant contact and license were posted. A new consultant contact flier was sent with updated information. Tornado and Fire plans were posted. Non-smoking signs were posted. Ten child files were reviewed and six employee files were reviewed. Two children were missing physicals; one was provided days after this annual visit, missing dentist and medical provider information was updated. The center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is working to attain a quality rating in the IQ4K System.

Yearly parent surveys are done and have shown a high level of satisfaction with the center and the care of their children.

There are many long term staff at the center.

The staff work well together and care about the children. Staff communicate well with parents. The center uses the Tadpole application to communicate with parents.

The center has a family atmosphere and is responsive to parents.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance. There is always someone up front to greet parents.

The Directors are almost always at the center and assist in the classrooms if necessary.

The center installed cameras in every classroom and the playground, as well as the parking lot. This system records and has sound.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 6

The center was sent a copy of the recommended form and will have employees sign and update files.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: One child file missing dentist contact information; One child file missing hospital preference

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1

The child missing a physical and immunization record was seen four days after the annual visit and was provided to this consultant.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now required every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The center last completed radon testing in March of 2024 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected annually; the center has a new A/C unit, installed 5/2024.

Discussion took place regarding some wiring/cords in the school age room; The directors will abate this concern. The center is readying for school-age program to start full days for the summer.

*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.