Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - West Des Moines

Provider No.: 26555

Address: 5859 Ashworth RD, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Kaitlyn Sheelsey

On-Site Supervisor: Jadyn W

Phone Number: 5152269791

E-Mail: director.ashworth@cadence-academy.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/17/2026

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/25/2025

Comments: noted to be complaint; fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by West Des Moines Fire Dept. Dep Chief Whitsell

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	32	20	70		122
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was conducted 9/17/26. Director Kaitlyn Sheesley was present during the visit but also working on lunch and staffing concerns.

This center is part of the Cadence Academy organization, which has various centers located in the metro area. The director for this center is Kaitlyn Sheesley. Kaitlyn has been the director since December 2022; she has prior director experience and assistant director experience along with a Bachelor's degree in Child/Adult Family Services plus 10 years of child care experience.

Cadence Academy--West Des Moines (Ashworth) is the sole occupant of the building providing traditional childcare for infants up through school age; hours of operation are now 7:00 PM until 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. The center participates in the UPK program in cooperation with the West Des Moines school district.

Cadence Academies utilize Ascend Curriculum which is similar to aspect of Creative Curriculum. Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with parents and offers ready access to the children's progress during the day. The center offers a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate learning centers and toys. The children were content and involved with large group reading, individual activities or in transition during the visit time.

Cadence Academy Preschool-West Des Moines offers children morning snack, Lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are available in advance and appear in line with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating. The children eat meals and snacks family style in their classrooms with staff participating and supervising closely.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Playground: The outdoor play area is enclosed with chain link fencing; safety surfacing was sufficient and is comprised of rubber chips. The center has refreshed the safety surfacing and added shade structures. There are play ground structures and other activities available to the children.

Transportation/Field Trips: Transportation is not provided by the center.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This is a NAEYC accredited center.

The staff work well together and have strong relationships with the families they serve. The center has good communication with parents.

Conferences are held twice a year for all ages, in November and May; along with monthly staff meetings and weekly emails to parents.

Cadence Academy hosts several family events, monthly.

The center participates in the T.E.A.C.H program--T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: 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.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

109.9(2)d: 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.
--Child files reviewed were observed missing emergency contact information and emergency dental contact information.
--The director would review and update files to include the required emergency contact information.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
--There was air freshener plugged in a kitchen outlet that was removed during the visit.
--There is chipping paint in the transition room (NE corner of room) that needs removed and repaired
--There was a hold in the sheet rock along with chipping paint in the restroom for the young pre-school age room. This needs repaired.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended.

Radon was tested 7/25/25 with all test values below the safety level of 4.0. This will be due again in five years.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HVAC inspections are kept on file in a corporate office; the director would get a copy and provide to licensing.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. This director indicated staff have or are going to complete Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) training provides educators and school leaders with the systems, data strategies, and evidence-based practices needed to establish a positive, proactive school culture; the center has worked with the school and with child care resource and referral (CCR&R).

Date: 10/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.