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

Name of Center: The Tree House Growing & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 97 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26390

Street: 2401 West 1st St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2401 W 1St St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Missey Michel/Mindy Seeman **Phone Number:** 515-965-5505

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashly Schmidt **E-Mail:** ashly@treehouseglc.com

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-02-2021

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

Date Inspected: 03-09-2022

Comments :

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Monday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Tuesday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Wednesday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Thursday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Friday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Saturday	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	23	12	43	0	78
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2021 to 05-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 05-31-2023

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 5/6/22. The assistant Director, Ashly Schmidt was present throughout the visit. Missey was present for the majority of the visit.

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 is located on the west side of Ankeny. Since 2008 this center has been owned by two sisters, Mindy Seeman and Missey Michel. They are qualified to be directors. They both have an Elementary Ed degree and both taught elementary school until buying this center. In 2014 they opened a school age only center, and in 2016 opened another child care center on the northeast side of Ankeny. In the fall of 2018 they opened another school age program on the north side of Ankeny.

Due to having four centers, each center has an on-site supervisor who is director qualified. Ashly Schmidt is the Assistant Director for this center. Ashly has worked in the field of child care since 2006 and became the assistant director in 2015.

This center provides care for infants and children up to the age of 5. Hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. There are five enclosed classrooms.

Measurement were taken of the classrooms to ensure the capacity was correct. This center is no longer providing care to school age children, these children receive care at the Study Loft locations. The preschool classroom has a capacity for 18 children. The 4-5 year old classroom has a capacity for 25 children. The toddler classroom has a capacity for 12 children. The infant classroom has a capacity for 11 children and the two year old classroom has a capacity for 12 children. This brings the total capacity for this center to 78. This is a change from the previous total capacity being at 95.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The staff are very dedicated; they want to teach the children the daily skills they need to succeed. The staff are a very close group and work well together. They enjoy what they do and view it as a career and not just a job.

The staff communicate well with the families. The center uses the Tadpole app which allows for real time updates and communication.

The center is family oriented and has a family atmosphere.

The curriculum is well rounded and the children are ready for kindergarten.

The center sends out newsletters every month, both a center wide newsletter and a classroom newsletter.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has a Facebook page as well as a website.

The center has a good playground area and green space for the children.

The center offers parents part time hours to accommodate working schedules.

With more than one center, the directors/owners ensure that all the centers follow the same expectations and guidelines.

There are staff shout outs on the wall in the office.

The center is well maintained and clean.

The center has new cabinets in all of the classrooms and new countertops.

The Assistant Director brings strong leadership to the center and years of experience and expertise.

The center takes steps to show appreciation for their staff. The center participated in teacher appreciation week, and administration will do extra things to take care of their staff. Staff recently received two T-shirts and a hoodie with the center logo. The center does a Teacher spotlight.

The center recently did a Mother's day breakfast.

The center won Ankeny's Best for the 9th year in a row.

The center has good early intervention with children who are experiencing delays.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon testing was completed in February of 2021. All rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center has placed a changing station in the two year old classroom, as well as a sink.

*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.