Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Apple Kids-Cedar Rapids

Provider No.: 48222

Address: 1525 Hollywood BLVD NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

County: Linn

Director's Name: Alyssa Colvin

On-Site Supervisor: Alyssa Colvin

Phone Number: 3193631539

E-Mail: applekidsnoelridge@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/06/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/05/2025

Comments: An updated fire certificate note dated 6/5/2025 noted the following: "...On site fire inspections and follow up have been completed at this occupancy related to a small remodel project in the basement....Annual fire inspection for the occupancy was completed in November of 2024, with an operational permit issued at that time. Current fire department operational permit for the occupancy remains in effect until the next scheduled inspection date of November 2025...."

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	12	46	33	107
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Apple Kids has been in operation since 1995 and currently operates multiple licensed childcare programs in Linn County. Specifically, this annual inspection report pertains to Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids. Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids is a profit program offering licensed childcare M-F 6:30am-5:30pm to children age infant through school-age. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 98 on 2/6/2026.

Apple Kids multi-site owner is Kendran Sizemore. Ms. Sizemore started as the Director of Apple Kids in 2001 becoming owner in 2009. Ms. Sizemore has a degree in child and family services, has experience working with children and participates in professional development. Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids director is Alyssa Colvin. Ms. Colvin has been the director since February 2026. Ms. Colvin has been employed with Apple Kids since 2021, has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 2/6/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in age defined classrooms. There are sufficient restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. The center has an on-site kitchen with space for food storage and as well as age-defined outdoor play areas. On 2/6/2026, staff were observed warmly greeting children and families upon arrival for the day. Areas of study during the month of this annual inspection included Valentine's Day. Evidence of previous days' learning included child artwork displayed throughout the center (e.g. Clever Little Love Bugs! Unique "You're my Jam" project! "B" is for bugs art). Curriculum on the day of the monitoring visit was observed to allow for a variety of play experiences that piqued child interest as well as encouraged social emotional growth, innovation and child choice. On 2/6/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included infant cares, indoor large gross motor play, classroom events and routine transitions. On the day of this monitoring visit, children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of Apple Kids is "...to provide a safe, nurturing, and fun environment for children ages six weeks to 10 years. Our focus is to provide an encouraging educational experience, promoting social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Committed to the families we serve, our goal is to give parents complete peace of mind, while being seen as an excellent example of what a quality childcare center should be..."

Apple Kids has the following website for families and persons in the community to learn more about their childcare programs: https://www.applekidschildcare.com/.

Multi-site owner Ms. Sizemore is a seasoned local entrepreneur invested in the community. As of 2/6/2026, the management team of Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids (e.g. Ms. Sizemore, Ms. Colvin) continues efforts to create and maintain systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and secured in a confidential manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Apple Kids locations continue to collaborate with one another on the sharing of materials, resources, curriculum, ideas/planning, and professional growth training. Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids also reports utilizing the support of our local CCNC and CCR&R. Ms. Colvin discussed that while she is new to the director role, she has been with Apple Kids for several years. Ms. Colvin expressed much gratitude towards having a reliable team of staff who are receptive to change and willing to assist in various capacities as needed. Staff throughout the program rooms reported being with Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids for 4 years, 3 years, and 6 months.

As of 2/6/2026, Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids was found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. The vestibule area was found to have updated communications for families and visitors. Curriculum continues to include a combination of learning strategies including hands-on activities and collaborative projects designed to nurture curiosity, creativity and confidence blending education with fun in every lesson. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events, themed days, seasonal parties, and enrichments (e.g. gardening). Ms. Colvin discussed the positive family feedback the program continues to receive including during some recent staffing changes. Notes of gratitude and thanks towards staff were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

Apple Kids - Cedar Rapids continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily child contact, hand washing, diaper changing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff and management were able to verbalize how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. On 2/6/2026, management discussed how they have continued supports from owner Ms. Sizemore and an Apple Kids building maintenance person as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

Apple Kids licensed childcare programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. These programs have successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

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.
- Four child files reviewed (TH, AF, EM, IK) lacked documentation of permission to treat in the event parents are not able to be reached.

109.9(2)k: Any child with special health needs, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
- One child file reviewed (TH) noted special health needs but lacked a written emergency plan as well as possible rescue medication.
- In room 3A, rescue medication (AF) was observed but there was no written emergency plan.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Ensure staff file MR has documentation of current federal record check results upon receipt.

Continue to review infant safe sleep rules with any staff who work in the infant room and ensure nothing is attached to any crib (e.g. remove crib mobiles).

Please continue to ensure all electrical outlets in the center are child-safe (e.g. tamper-resistant designs, outlet covers, GFCI protection).

Ensure all chemicals (e.g. cleaners, sanitizers, disinfectants) are inaccessible to children but readily available to staff and that each is properly labeled with the name of product and manufacturer instructions (e.g. dilution if applicable, dwell time).

Continue to ensure all taller shelving and/or cabinets are secured to help prevent a topple hazard. As funding (e.g. Growing Iowa Funds-Grant, ECI funds) becomes available, obtain lower child-sized shelving in all rooms.

As funding (e.g. Growing Iowa Funds-Grant, ECI funds) becomes available, please invest in a toddler play kitchen set with supplies (e.g. imaginative play foods, shopping carts, baskets). Please also update child proofing on all lower cabinets throughout the center (e.g. consider magnetic cabinet-cupboard locks) including the infant room.

Ensure every diapering surface is nonporous to ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting between each diaper change (e.g. infant room). As funding (e.g. Growing Iowa Funds-Grant, ECI funds) becomes available, fully replace any diapering stations that have a nonporous surface. Also update highchairs to encourage independent self-feeding as an infant reaches those milestones as well as ensure each has safety straps and surfacing that is able to be cleaned, sanitized and disinfected between each use.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 03/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.