Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Apple Tree Early Child Center **Enrollment:** 135 **License ID:** 51852

Street: 1070 7th AVE NE **City:** Sioux Center **IA** **Zip Code:** 51250 **County:** Sioux

Mailing Address: 1070 7th AVE NE

Mailing City: Sioux Center **IA** **Zip Code:** 51250

Director's Name: Melinda Eeekhoff **Center Phone Number:** 712-722-4336

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** director.ecc@appletreechildcare.com

Date of Complaint: 05-29-2024 **Date of Visit:** 06-05-2024

[ ] Scheduled **[X]** Unannounced **[ ]** NA

[X] Non-Compliance with Regulations Found **[ ]** Compliance with Regulations Found

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

[ ] NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

[ ] PROVISIONAL license from **to**

[ ] SUSPENSION of License

[ ] REVOCATION of License

Complaint Details:

Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Summary of Complaint:

1/11 kids ratio Teacher very overwhelmed. Common theme lately. Stretching limits of what it should be. Talked to them lately and they said they have hired staff. One day a child snuck out as far as the parking lot. There was 4 of them, got out of the big playroom. Sounds like the ratio wasn't right, got out to the doors, office person caught the last 2, but two of the children got out into the parking lot. Next day child was climbing the fence while the teacher was calling child and again they were out of ratios. Again, teacher was very overwhelmed.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.8(1)b All staff in ratio involved with children in programming activities.

Inspection Findings:

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Licensing completed a visit to Appletree Early Learning Center on 06-05-24. The following is based upon observations while on-site, and a face-to-face interview with director Melinda Eeekhoff and administrative review.

109.8(1)b All staff in ratio involved with children in programming activities. RUILE VIOLATED.

-Director stated that they did have a day were they were out of ratio for about 30 minutes on one day as a staff member had called in. A child had been dropped off but another one was waiting to leave. This occurred around nap time. The children were all laying down to nap other than the child that was leaving.
-The staff member that was in the room is no longer available as she had resigned to take another job.
-Director was in the process of hiring staff. The program changed their process for new hired staff. New staff are mentored by a lead staff. The lead staff have to complete a checklist prior to new staff being left alone with children.
-Director also stated that they did have a couple of kids that got out of the door. The staff/children were in the gym playing and when they went to transition back to their room 4 children had ran down the hall and two got outside towards the parking lot. Staff had directed them to wait but they had ran ahead. The two that got outside were brought right back into the building by staff that had seen them run outside. Since this occurred the center has added alarms on the doors incase they have runners again. They also had added stop signs and put them at eye level for the children so that they can also see that they are to stop and not go further unless told to. Ratio was met on this day.

Special Notes and Action Required:

It is expected that Director Melinda Eeekhoff will continues monitoring staff and children interactions to ensure children are safe.

It is recommended that the director continue working with CCRR for support.

Consultant's Signature:

Jana Drew

Date:

07-17-2024