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

Name of Center: Apple Tree Preschool and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30124

Street: 3835 Indian Hills DR **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51104 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 3835 Indian Hills DR, Sioux City, IA, 51104

Director's Name: Tina Queen **Phone Number:** 712-239-1002

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cassandra Vaske **E-Mail:** tinaqueen.appletree@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-24-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-20-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-18-2024

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: 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			60	40	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 07-24-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 07-24-24 and spoke director Tina Queen. Tina became director in November 2022. She has a 2 year degree in Theology and her CDA degree and has worked at the center for the last 24 years. Apple Tree Preschool & Child Care Center is located in a facility that was built specifically for childcare. They have five rooms and serve children from two years old to school age. The center operates Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm.

There are 75 children enrolled in the program, however, only 58 were present at the time 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. The center continues continues in cleaning toys that children use.

Center serves breakfast, lunch, and snacks on site. They do not qualify for the food program, however, they do follow the food program guidelines. Monthly Fire and Tornado drills are documented as well as playground inspections. Radon tests were completed and within normal range. Furnace inspection is done annually.

The center are utilizing the Kind Campaign emphasizing on positive behavior along with PBIS. The center does some fund raisers, but looks for other ways to bring money into the center for new toys or equipment. The center also, uses their cameras for observation for training of staff and help in monitoring children's behaviors. The center also has staff timeclocks and security system to the front door. Parents and staff use key fobs or key cards to enter the building. The center uses Pro Care app to assist in acquiring all that is needed from parents. The center uses Creative Curriculum. The program is in the application process for the IQ4K program. They have 3 staff who are currently utilizing the TEACH program to help with staff getting their CDA in early childcare. One staff uses the WAGES program and another is working on it.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
Center has 2 vans and a mini bus that are utilized to transport the children to the various field trips. During the school year the vans take the children to school and pick them up. The schools that the center transports to are Perry Creek Elementary and Leeds Elementary School. The center has regular maintenance for the vans.

Goals of the center are to update the playground and possibly change surfacing, continue hiring quality staff, increase enrollment, and more fund raising. The center is in the process of updating classrooms with new equipment in the rooms, toys, rugs etc.

Strengths of the center are that her staff have been with the center for many years and they are dependable as well are good quality staff. Staff are also caring and nuturing to the children they serve. The center has a good relationship with the families and community they serve. The center uses PBIS strategies for disciplining. Staff also do a lot of activities with the children to keep them engaged.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center sends home a monthly newsletter to parents.

Each room sends home a monthly newsletter to parents.

Conferences with parents twice a year to let them know how their child is progressing for the Preschool Initiative program (October and April). For the rest of the center they do conferences 1x year.

Center sends home report cards for children in the preschool program.

Center displays the children's art work in the rooms.

Photographs of the children throughout the center showing the various activities they are involved in .

Children's toys are at their level and accessible and organized.

Center has staff that has a lot of longevity which enhances the stability of the children that the center serves. The center provides for incentives for staff retention.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

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 dental: 1
Information lacking: Information was missing

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant by 09-01-24 confirming that all aspects the fall below standards have been completed.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.