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

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Ankeny **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28339

Street: 225 E 1st St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 8800 N Gainey Center Dr Ste300Attn: Accounts Receivable, Scottsdale, AZ, 85258

Director's Name: Kristi Parsons **Phone Number:** 515-964-7372

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amie Littlefield **E-Mail:** director.ankeny@cadence-academy.com

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-13-2022

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

Date Inspected: 10-12-2020

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	24	24	62		110
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-30-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual off year visit was completed 11-21-23. The director and assistant director were present during the visit.

This center is part of the Cadence organization, which has various centers located within the metro area. In Dec. 2013 these centers were purchased by Phoenix Children's Academy, which is now called Cadence Education. The Regional Director is Staci Patterson. The center director is Kristi Parsons who has been with this center since 1998, and became the assistant director in 2016. The assistant director is Amie Littlefield, who began in this role officially in May of 2022. Amie has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and worked for this center for 21 years prior to becoming the assistant director. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

Hours of operation are now 7:00 am till 5:30 pm. They serve children ages six weeks up through age five. They do not provide school age care.

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.

Room observations: There are five enclosed classrooms, plus the large open area in the middle of the building that is used for the four and five year old children. The Ascend program is used for curriculum which is set by corporate for all Cadence Centers. Corporate also sends out monthly themes and materials that teachers are able to choose and integrate in the classrooms. Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with parents. Staff were in ratio. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities for the children. The rooms are arranged in such a way to be able to supervise the children without obstruction. Children were observed to be content and staff engaged in providing good structure in rooms. The children were at the end of AM snack and transitioning to activities when observed.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and the center has a dedicated cook. Meals are set by corporate and are in-line with CACFP guidelines. Menus are rotated and meals/snacks are served in the children's respective classrooms family-style by staff.

Health and Safety: Emergency medications are stored securely in the classrooms. Non-emergency medications are stored in the office securely. There were first aid kits in all rooms. Handwashing posters were posted and good handwashing technique was observed.

Playground: Playground checks had been completed; noting concern with the safety surfacing near a shade tree. This play area is enclosed with chain link fencing and has natural shade. There are play structures that were in good repair. The safety surfacing adjacent to a natural shade tree had roots that perforated the surfacing and created a trip/fall hazard for those utilizing the playground. Resurfacing is recommended.

Transportation/Field Trips

Administrative review: The center has required posting for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado drills and non-smoking signs. Seven child files were reviewed with all required information located; Five employee files were reviewed that contained all required information. This center has a well established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has maintained their NAEYC accreditation.

This center has an IQ4K rating of 3 stars, based on a 1-5 scale. The center is working on renewing the rating for a 5 star and has been working with their CCR&R consultant.

The center has a very strong relationship with the families they serve. Families consistently give this center high reviews on a survey that is given by their parent company.

The center has some long term staff, including the director and assistant director.

The staff work well together and are professional and dedicated. Since there are various centers in the area, staff can assist in other Cadence centers as needed.

Several staff have college education including staff with Bachelor's, associates and CDA certificates.

The center has a Facebook page and a website and has recently gone to an App for daily contacts which the parents and teachers like. The center uses an app called Kids Report.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center conducts family events which have a large turnout. This has not been taking place as much during the pandemic.

Each classroom has an intercom which allows for easy and quick communication to the office.

The center participates in the TEACH program and WAGES program.

The Cadence corporation is a strong support for the center.

The administrative team work well together and are a strong team. The administrative team sends monthly letters to families with updates and information. The administrative team does a weekly check in with staff.

The center is clean with good room set up and room arrangement.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

Safety surfacing meant to protect, and located over tree roots has been perforated by some large tree roots and this has created a trip/fall hazard on this playground. Replacement is recommended.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The furnace is inspected yearly, the last inspection was completed in October of 2023.

Discussion took place in 2022 regarding the washer and dryer in the two year old bathroom and either moving these or placing locks on the appliances. he washer/dryer have now been enclosed.

*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.