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

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Grand **Enrollment:** 93 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26701

Street: 1809 Grand Ave **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Erica Austin **Phone Number:** 515-327-2087

On-Site Supervisor(s): Madison Whisney **E-Mail:** Director.Grand@Cadence-Academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-28-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-24-2024

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 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	22	18	78		118
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 03-05-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 2-28-24. The director and assistant director were present during the visit.

This center was a part of the Apple Tree organization which has centers located throughout the metro area. In December 2013 these centers were bought by Phoenix Children's Academy, which was then renamed to Cadence Education Inc. Cadence Education is nationwide and has approximately 250 centers in at least 30 states.

Each center has a director that meets the 100 points required for that position, and an assistant director that meets the 75 points required for that position. Erica Austin is now the director, beginning in this role in 2021. Erica was the assistant director prior to becoming the director. Erica has an Associates degree in Early Childhood and has several years experience in a childcare setting. Madison Whisney is the assistant director, beginning in this role in 2021 at this center. Madison has been an assistant director with this corporation since 2018, she was previously at another location. Madison has a Bachelor's degree in Event Management and several year experience in childcare. Both meet qualifications for their roles.

The hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. They offer care for children from infants up to age five. They do not provide care to school age children. However, during the summer months they may have a few school age children who attend if they have a younger sibling who is already enrolled in the center.

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/activities: This center has five classrooms used for child care and one classroom that is used for the universal pre-k program that is offered in conjunction with the West Des Moines school district. Cadence has their own preschool program as well and they use the Ascend Curriculum. Kamboo is the application that is used to communicate with parents. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers and toys in the classrooms, which were clean and nicely organized. Oxivir and Bleach are used to clean/sanitize. The staff are in ration and a nicely established structure in each room.

Nutritional Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. This program is not currently participating in the food program, however menus reflect they are following CACFP guidelines. The company issues menus that are rotated every 4 weeks. Meals and snacks are served family style in the classrooms. The kitchen area is clean and organized.

Health and Safety: Medication is secured in each classroom room when needed. There are handwashing posts around the center. There are first aid kits in every room. Fire/tornado exit plans are posted and drills are documented as completed monthly. Radon was completed 12/2021, all rooms testing under 4.0 and is not due again for five years. There are carbon monoxide detectors are located around the center.

Playground: The center was sent new playground safety check forms. This playground is enclosed with wood privacy fencing and some chain link. There is a good sized shade structure and safety surfacing is wood chips. There is play equipment available.

Transportation--NA

Administrative Review: The center was provided a new mandatory reporting flier; Handbook is located on line, A new consultant contact flier was sent. Fire/Tornado plans were posted as were non-smoking signs. Five staff files were reviewed and four needed proof of SING check or re-checks completed. One SING check was completed during this visit. An employee-Substitute-Volunteer statement was sent to the center for staff to review, sign and to be filed. Five child files were reviewed and contained all the required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center may be working toward IQ4k certification.

This center has their NAEYC accreditation. Only a small percentage of child care centers in the nation meet the high standards of this nationally recognized program. This center has had their NAEYC accreditation for over fifteen years.

This center provides a consistent, well rounded child care program to the families in the community.

The center offers parent-teacher conferences for all ages of children twice a year.

The center has strong communication with families and works hard to develop good relationships with the families.

The center completes a transition packet when a child moves from one room to another room and the center uses the primary care giving system which allows the children to have one main staff as their primary care giver in the classroom.

There is staff longevity at this center, including staff who have worked at the center for 20 years. There are 10 staff who have been at the center for over 10 years.

The director and on-site supervisor work well together and provide strong leadership.

The staff are educated, professional and work well together. Every lead teacher has a Bachelor's degree, Associates degree or a CDA. four of the lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree in Early childhood education, one has an Associate's degree and one has their CDA. The staff view this as a career, not just a job.

The center has put together resource kits for parents to take home to give ideas and help with a variety of behaviors and transition periods for children.

The center uses the Kids Report App for daily notes, communication and pictures, which assists in parent communication.

The center receives strong support from the Cadence corporation.

The center conducts parent surveys twice a year and receives a high rating on these surveys.

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

109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents.
Flier was sent to the program to be posted. *REPEAT VIOLATION*

109.9(1)a
All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse. Five Files reviewed, four missing This form was emailed to the director for staff to review, sign and to be placed in the employee file.

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.
Five Files reviewed, four missing SING check documentation, one was completed when the visit took place.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if the testing shows results under the 4.0 cutoff. The center last conducted radon testing in December of 2021 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Discussion took place that a request for new paint has been made due to warn paint in the classroom areas. There were not paint chips present or accessible during this visit.

*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.