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

Name of Center: Apple Daycare Inc **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 37651

Street: 119 N 7th St **City:** Sheffield Iowa **Zip** 50475 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: PO Box 693, Sheffield, IA, 50475

Director's Name: Lori Sanders **Phone Number:** 641-892-4647

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** appledaycare1@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-15-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-15-2022

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X 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	7		26	26	59
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 01-29-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Apple Daycare on 01-15-24 where I met with the center director Lori Sanders. Lori has been involved with this program from its inception in 2012 initially as a board member and later as the director in 2014. Lori is well qualified for the position based on her experience, attending professional development training, and a BA in business management. The center is located in an old one room church that is owned by the school and has been remodeled for use as a daycare. While the building is owned by the school it is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a separate board of directors. The daycare is the only program that is operating in the building. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are approximately 50 children currently enrolled in the center served by 11 teachers. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The center layout has changed since the time of the last visit. The main floor remains the same as observed in prior visits and consists of a large open space that has been divided by a 3/4 wall into two areas with one for infants, and the other for the pre-school and school age children. Low mobile shelving units further divide the space for the preschool and school age children. The program completed renovations to a lower level which is used for school age programming. Restrooms and sinks are located in the preschool area so that children do not need to leave the room and staff can provide supervision as needed. A toilet and sink was added to the lower level for the school age children so that they also do not need to leave the area. Changing stations are located in the infant and preschool classrooms, and additional sinks are located in the infant area. Large windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light, ventilation, and view of the outdoors. A secondary exit door and ramp is located at the back of the building by the infant room providing direct secondary egress and access to the playground space. While the door did open it was noted that it did require more force to open. This was identified as an issue in the prior licensing report and Lori did identify that the center does have plans to have the door replaced, and a cover added to the entry in the spring. A secondary exit door and covered stairway was also added to allow direct exit from the lower level for the school age children. While there were a few minor maintenance issues such as broken floor tiles, door cabinets with loose/sagging hinges, and chipped/peeling paint these did not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern but should be monitored and maintenance scheduled. The lower level also serves as an emergency shelter, storage, and houses an office area. Each classroom is divided in to programming areas through the placement of furnishings and play structures. The toys and materials present in each area were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum which identifies a general learning theme, and specific number, letter, color, and shape learning concepts were posted.

All staff were observed to be engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The center was just finishing lunch service when I arrived and the teachers moved to help the children clean up, engaged in a general media based activity, and arranged cots for nap time. It was noted that children were not rushed to finish eating, nor were they required to participate in the group activity. During nap time the teachers did direct the children to lay on their cots but did allow them to have a toy or other quit activity item, and/or would rub their back to help soothe them. Later in the day after waking the teachers did engage in various curriculum activities such as doing art/craft projects with the children. Good behavior management techniques were observed. As noted children were not required to engage in certain activities, and used routines and activities to keep the children focused and engaged in positive behaviors. The teachers did redirect, and assist children as needed. All teachers used positive and calm tones of voice when speaking with the children.

I was able to observe diapers changes during the visit in the preschool age room and staff did follow the posted procedures for the most part but did not clean and disinfect the changing station between changes. Good hand washing practices were observed by the required procedures posting was not present by each sink used for hand washing, and the sinks in the preschool classroom did not have any paper towels present to allow for proper hand washing though this was corrected once pointed out. When cleaning staff were observed to wait for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. All chemical cleaners, purses, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. Medications, diaper creams, and other personal items were labeled with the name of the child to whom it belonged. Emergency numbers are posted by the center phone. The center does have first aid kits present which did contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs but which does need to be replenished. There were no children taking any medications, or with an identified allergy at the time of the visit but the center does have policies should it be necessary in the future. Safe sleep practices were followed for all children under 1 year of age. All cribs and cots had bedding that was clean and fitted to the equipment. One infant under 6 months of age was being fed during the visit and was in a reclined position. It was reviewed that when feeding infants under 6 months of age they must be held in an upright position and proper positioning was demonstrated. The teacher did reposition the child and was later observed to be using proper positioning later in the day with another child. Ratio was maintained in the classrooms as required by age in all areas.

The center does have a small kitchen space where meals are prepared. Good food storage practices were observed with all food items placed in air tight sealable food grade containers after they had been opened. Thermometers were present in all refrigeration and freezer. A menu with a good variety of nutritious food options is posted and was followed on the day of my visit which consisted of quesadillas, pears, carrots, and milk. Meals are pre-portioned for the children using measured scoops to ensure each child receives a full portion. Staff did wear food service gloves when plating meals. Supervision was provided at the tables when the children were eating.

The playground is fully fenced and has mature trees that provide shade. There are no climbing structures requiring fall surfacing. There is a shed that is used to store a variety of toys and equipment. There are other activity centers such as riding area, a music area, and large open green space area. The center did acquire a new spring rocker Fire Truck center. One issue that was noted was a drop off where the ground met the paved sidewalk which does create a tripping hazard. This was reviewed with Lori and the need to either bring in dirt to create a smooth transition, or use a high visibility paint to denote the transition point.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. A random sample of 15 of the children's files was conducted and of the files reviewed 7 did not have documentation of a current physical. It was also noted that the center is using the Playground communication application to document information including infant daily sheets. When reviewing those daily notes the staff were not documenting all required information. The notes did have information on sleeping, eating, diapering but did not identify daily activities or disposition. These elements must be logged daily and include morning and afternoon time frames to show any changes of functioning. It was reviewed that the Playground application does have the ability to attach photographs to individual daily logs and those could be used as a visual depiction of mood and activity. A random selection of 5 staff files found that while generally complete 3 needed updated Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter training. All required inspections logs and certificates were current and available. The center does have a Radon Mitigation system installed and as a reminder centers with radon mitigation systems must reconduct testing every 2 years to ensure that the system is functioning properly.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center did complete a major renovation over the past year to allow an expansion of services with school age children making use of a lower level. This has allowed the center to consolidate programming to one location whereas in the past the program had made temporary use of spaces at the school for overflow programming for older children.

The center is continuing to update systems with plans to repair/replace the secondary exit of the upper level and include a covered area of the access walk/ramp.

The center also has a very strong reputation within the community. Lori did identify that while another center had recently opened in the community she has not seen any concerns for children withdrawing to attend the other center, or with staff leaving to seek other employment.

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

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- Documentation of daily activities and disposition were not being required for each child each day as required.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 7

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Handwashing procedures postings need to be posted by all sinks used for hand washing. Paper towels were not present at all sinks used for hand washing.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- Changing stations were not cleaned and disinfected between changings.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.