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

Name of Center: Apple Tree Preschool and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 85 **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: 07-03-2025

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:** 06-30-2025

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: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 07-16-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/03/25 I completed an unannounced visit at the Apple Tree Childcare Center located on Indian Hills Drive in Sioux City Ia. I was able to speak with Tina Queen who is the director and has been since 2020. Tina has a 2-year degree in Theology and her CDA. She has worked at the center for the past 25 years.

The center has five rooms and serves children from two years old to school age. The center operates Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 6:00pm.
All areas of the program were observed including classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

There are 85 children enrolled in this program and on the day of my visit there were 46 children present.

Each room contained various visual aids including the alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes and other pictures. I also observed real pictures of children doing an activity such as handwashing that provides clear, relatable guidance. They also focus on children being able to identify their emotions and how to handle what they are feeling. The center uses PBIS strategies for discipline. This is an evidence-based framework for discipline that is often used in school and early childhood centers. PBIS focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors instead of reacting to negative behaviors. They use a creative curriculum which builds children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills through hands-on, project-based investigations.

There center has good furniture arrangements in their rooms to allow the flow of different activities as well as lining up to go outside or to lunch. Numerous photographs featuring family members are included to help the child feel a sense of connection and belonging. There are also many displays of the children's artwork.

I observed staff participating with children directly as they completed activities.

The building is a locked facility, and parents and staff need a fob key to enter.

The Center serves breakfast, lunch, and snacks on site. They do not qualify for the food program, however, they do follow the food program guidelines. I observed good food preparation as well as food storage.

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 playground equipment is in good repair along with the surfacing.

The center offers field trips that include swimming lessons or gymnastics. They also provide transportation for school age children who attend after school. Vehicles have regular maintenance and are in good repair.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a committed staff that have longevity. They participate with programs designed to increase the qualification of their staff including CDA and TEACH.

I observed attentive staff who got down to the level of the children to communicate. They also provided structure and routine in their activities which is very beneficial to children.

They use the procare app to communicate with parents and also do parent teach conferences two times a year.

They continue to work on their IQ4K's level, and I encourage them to reach out to their CCR&R consultant for assistance.

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

109.9(2)d: 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.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant by 09-01-25 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.