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

Name of Center: Acorns & Oaks Christian Academy **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48797

Street: 2323 Willis Ave **City:** Perry Iowa **Zip** 50220 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 2323 Willis Ave, Perry, IA, 50220

Director's Name: Amanda Ballentine **Phone Number:** 515-642-0064

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ciera Bromenberg **E-Mail:** mandi@acornsoaks.com

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-21-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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 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	5	5	32	0	42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-23-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 7/17/23. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Acorns and Oaks Christian Academy is a center in Perry, IA located within a lower level of the Perry Lutheran Home (and this Autumn a preschool classroom in another wing of the building). The center was given permission to open on 7/10/17 with a capacity of 30 children. The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly five years in age using the Creative Learning Curriculum and elements of Montessori in their teaching of children.

The center is overseen by a Board. Amanda Ballentine is the director of this program as of 7/2021. Amanda was previously the on-site supervisor. Amanda has worked in child care for several years and meets the requirements for director. Amanda is working towards a CNA. Ciera Bromenberg is the on-site supervisor. Ciera has experience, training, and is working towards a BA degree.

During the visit, children were observed having their diapers changed and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms. Staff were involved with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment remains steady.

The center uses the smart phone app Brightwheels for payments, forms, more communication with parents, etc.

The center has a Face Book page and a website. The center also does a monthly newsletter.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

There is a "buddy rope" system in place for when staff take younger children for walks.

The center caters to children with learning disabilities.

The center has good community partnerships.

The director feels she has a good group of staff working for her and that staff work well together. There is a good mix of

new and tenured staff. The director felt the staffs' relationships with families was also positive.

Cognitive assessments are completed on all children two and older enrolled.

There is a washer and dryer on site.

The center is beginning the IQ4K process which is voluntary and based on best practice.

The center will be adding a preschool component in the Autumn and will also have a certified preschool teacher.

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

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age.
At one point in the visit, there was an older child in the 18mo - three year old classroom. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE VISIT.

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 newer staff person is past due for needing a physical.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 0
Number invalid: 1 immunization record needs to be signed/dated.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There were several expired medications observed during the visit.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
All infant bottles should be labeled with the child's name on them.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
There was one day where a second credible food item was missing for the listed day's snack. Also, cows milk needs to be one percent or skim for children two and older and whole milk for children under two who aren't on formula or breast milk.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

An administrative change is being made to the center license. The center will be officially changing their name to Acorns and Oaks Christian Academy. The center will also be adding a preschool component to the center license and using a new room that has a capacity of 12 children. Before the center can utilize this classroom, the State Fire Marshal's Office will have to inspect the room first and the center must pass that inspection.
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Radon testing was last tested 7/22/21 - 7/23/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed on 8/1/22 so it is again coming due.

For the majority of field trips, the center walks to different places in the surrounding area. The center also now uses one of the nursing home buses and also a driver for field trips not within walking distance. Parents are required to provide car seats if needed. The center continues to also bring in different agencies for presentations to children throughout the year.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.