Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Tree House Growing & Learning Center

Provider No.: 26390

Address: 2401 West 1st St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Missey Michel/Mindy Seeman

On-Site Supervisor: Ashly Schmidt

Phone Number: 5159655505

E-Mail: ashly@treehouseglc.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/15/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/08/2026

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years; completed by Lt Tyson Hood, Ankeny Fire Dept.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	24	12	58	0	94
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was completed 4-15-26 and Director Ashly Schmidt was present throughout the visit.

This center is located on the west side of Ankeny. Since 2008 this center has been owned by two sisters, Mindy Seeman and Missey Michel. They are qualified to be directors. They both have an Elementary Ed degree and both taught elementary school until buying this center. In 2014 they opened a school age only center, and in 2016 opened another child care center on the northeast side of Ankeny. In the fall of 2018 they opened another school age program on the north side of Ankeny.

Due to having four centers, each center has an on-site supervisor who is director qualified. Ashly Schmidt is the Assistant Director for this center. Ashly has worked in the field of child care since 2006 and became the assistant director in 2015.

This center provides care for infants and children up to the age of 5. Hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. The center is the sole occupant in the building.

Room observations/activities: Administrative staff creates a framework pulled from Iowa Early Learning Standards and the Tadpole application to communicate with parents. Teachers are able to incorporate crafts or other sensory items along with lesson plans. Staff were observed to maintain good structure in the classrooms. Children are content. There is a good variety of toy centers and activities.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff. The center offers breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack which are prepared onsite. The kitchen was observed during lunch; and was observed to be organized and

clean.

Playground: This playground offers a variety of age-appropriate outdoor equipment and toys. The playground is enclosed with wrought iron fencing; there is shade available from play structures.

Transportation/Field Trips: The center offers transportation to school and back from school with vans.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The staff work well together and many craft projects incorporating learning themes were displayed in the classrooms.

The staff communicate well with the families; with tadpoles and other means when necessary.

The curriculum is well rounded and the children are ready for kindergarten.

The center has a secure entrance. There are cameras in all age areas and outdoor.

The center offers parents part time hours to accommodate working schedules.

The center has good early intervention with children who are experiencing delays.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

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.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks: a staff file was in need of an updated Iowa background check.
*The director on site completed the necessary check while the visit occurred. No further action required.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. The staff files reviewed showed missing training certifications.
*The director on site later provided the updated staff trainings certificates. No further action required.

109.9(2)d: Child files contact information to secure emergency dental and medical care. Some child files were missing dental or medical emergency contact information
*The director on site will seek out the information from families

109.10(13)b: Emergency....diagrams for fire, tornado and flood...visibly posted. Classrooms were missing postings for emergency exit diagrams
*The director on site indicated the classrooms had just been painted and the diagrams would be replaced/reposted.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last radon testing was completed in March

of 2023. All rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The director on site shared that staff are required to complete professional trainings for classroom behavior management strategies. The director on site addresses behavioral concerns at staff meetings to utilize other professional input/strategies. The center has worked with AEA to assist; and staff are reminded to utilize breaks or seek out the director on site if further assistance is needed.

Date: 04/23/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.