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

Name of Center: Apple Tree Preschool and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 190 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27974

Street: 4224 Hickory Lane **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51106 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 4224 Hickory Lane, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Laurie Roethler **Phone Number:** 712-274-2795

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kourtney Campbell **E-Mail:** laurie.roethler@appletreechildcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-27-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-04-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-18-2021

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: 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	43	25	134	30	232
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 06-29-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An visit was made on 06-27-23 and spoke with director Laurie Roethler. Laurie has many years of experience working with children and has been director again since 08/2016.

There are 190 children enrolled in the program, however, on average there are around 110 children that are at the center at one time. 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. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center also continues cleaning toys daily that children use.

Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Children have access to bathrooms. Displayed throughout the room were colors, numbers, food groups, nursery rhyme characters, children's artwork, picture schedule for the children, treasure chests, pictures of the children in various activities, shapes and the alphabet.

Center Nutrition Practices
Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Meals and snacks are prepared onsite in a kitchen area next to the dining area. Good food storage practices were observed.

The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon tests are complete. Annual heating inspection is complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Center needs to make sure that children's personal items are not in a pile but separated. Children had had water play and when changed their cloths they were all put in a basket together to later be sorted. Items should be sorted when children are changed.

Center Playground
There are two fenced -in playground areas. One for older children playground has slides, a playhouse and climbing equipment. Playground was under repair as they were putting in new surfacing. Surfacing was mulch around the equipment. The toddler playground has slides, rocking horse, toys, picnic table and climbing equipment. Mulch was also around all the equipment, however is also under repair. The area on the toddler playground for riding toys which is uneven and is a tripping hazard and needs to be redone, which director stated that is the plan. The children have access to shade on the playground. Director will contact worker when playground is completed. Monthly playground inspection completed

Center serves breakfast, lunch, and snacks on site. They are on the food program and follow the food program guidelines.

Monthly Fire and Tornado drills are documented along with playground inspections. Radon testing is within normal range. Furnace inspection is done annually.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
Center owned vans are utilized to transport the children to the various field trips throughout the day. During the school year the vans take the children to school and pick them up. The center has regular maintenance for the vans.

Strengths of the center are that their center staff have been with the center for many years and they are dependable as well are good quality staff. The center has a good relationship with the families and community they serve. Most of the staff have completed PBIS training and implement it.

The center's goals are to update the big kids playground and the toddler playground, center is currently on IQ4K level 2 and will strive for level 4. Also continue with staff retention such as give out gift cards if they are doing well.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center feels they have good staff/parent communication. Children seem happy when they come to the center.

Have quality trained staff who have been with the center for more than 2 years.

There is a secure entrance into the center. The director's office is located right at the main entrance.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter to families.

The center is a IQ4K Level 2.

This is one of five centers that have the same owner. The centers communicate with one another, have the same policies, procedures, etc.

The center has a website.

The center participates in the food program.(CACFP).

The center director has worked hard to get licensing binder, staff and children's files up to date.

Staff had good interactions with the children.

The center was well organized.

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

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.
Number missing: 1
All staff including under 18 now need fingerprints completed.

109.9(3)
Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

Playground is under repair and needs to be completed. Program is not currently using the playground. Also children's personal items need to separated at all times.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center will email consultant by 07-31-23 confirming that all aspects that 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.