Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Iowa City

Provider No.: 24244

Address: 325 S Dubuque St, Iowa City, IA, 52240

County: Johnson

Director's Name: Molli DeWolf

On-Site Supervisor: Rachel Courter

Phone Number: 6028600763

E-Mail: director.iowacity@cadence-academy.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/28/2025

Licensing Period:

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/17/2024

Comments: Does Comply

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: National Association for the Education of Young Children.-

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 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	48	22	44		114
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

This worker arrived at Cadence Academy on10/28/25 for the child care center's annual visit. The center is located inside a commercial building. The center has 8 classrooms.
They also have access to the kitchen, staff break room, office and storage spaces.

The center is open year around. The center's hours of operation are 7am to 6pm. The center provides care for: infants, toddlers, preschool and kindergarten children.

The center's current enrollment is 86.

The director is Molli DeWolf. The director started in 2019. They have a Bachelor's Degree in Science: Criminology and Criminal Science. She also has an Associate's in Early Childhood Education.

The on-site supervisor is Rachel Courter. The on-site supervisor started in 2018. Rachel has a Bachelor's of Arts in Gender Women and Sexuality Studies.

This worker observed all programming space in the center and outdoor area to ensure that the environment was safe, sanitary and hazard free. The center was not safe, sanitary and hazard free. The following concerns were observed: staff purses backpacks were accessible, choking hazards were accessible, plastic bags/garbage bags were accessible. Ensure that handwashing and food prep does not occur at the same sink. Better storage of water bottles. Several rugs need to be replaced. The playground has several gaps between the turf and sidewalk. Classroom walls and changing tables need repairs. Ensure that the staff break room is inaccessible to the children.

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The center staff provided careful supervision during the visit. The center was in ratio during the visit. The center ensures that: medication is stored and documented appropriately, staff know how to use the cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting products, diaper changing procedures were followed and infant safe sleep procedures were followed.

The center provides: morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The center ensures that each child is served a full, nutritionally balanced meal/snack as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff provided careful supervision at the table during snacks and meals. Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage were followed. Menus were posted.

The center curriculum is teacher created using the Ascend Curriculum.

This worker observed the following activities and interactions: staff actively engaged with the children on the floor, diaper changes, lunch time and rest time.

The center does not provide transportation. The center does not offer field trips.

Paperwork:
-All required postings were displayed on the date visit.
-Child files were in full compliance.

-The licensing notebook was in full compliance including:
-floor plans
-drills
-first aid checklist
-playground inspections
-fuel burning inspection
-radon testing
-staff handbook/parent handbook
- emergency preparedness

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

-The center offers flexi pass for preschool or kindergarten children that pay full tuition and 10% when they need drop in care. They can use as many as they need.
-Child files were in full compliance.
-The center communicates with parents/guardians via Kaynbu.
-The center has staff meetings once a month.
-The center closes for professional development twice a year.
-National Association for the Education of Young Children
-The new director and on-site have a strong desire to gain a full understanding of HHS rules and regulations.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

-One employee needs a physical.

-The center was not safe, sanitary and hazard free. The following concerns were observed: staff purses backpacks were accessible, choking hazards were accessible, plastic bags/garbage bags were accessible. Ensure that handwashing and food prep does not occur at the same sink. Better storage of water bottles. Several rugs need to be replaced. The playground has several gaps between the turf and sidewalk. Classroom walls and changing tables need repairs. Ensure that the staff break room is inaccessible to the children.

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

N/A

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon the annual visit, it is recommended that this center remain in full licensing status. If citations were issued please ensure that they are corrected as soon as possible. It is important that the director and all staff review the updated Iowa Code 109 https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/providerportal/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=19 and Comm. 204: https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/6489/download?inline

This worker encourages all centers to work with Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant and their Child Care Nurse Consultant.

Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies play a vital role in supporting the quality of child care across Iowa by offering both on-site and virtual consultation services to licensed preschools, Child Care Centers, nonregistered Child Care Home providers and registered Child Development Home (CDH) providers. CCR&R agencies assist providers in complying with state regulations by offering expert consultation, training, and professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of care they provide. A key focus is supporting providers in achieving high performance within the Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) system https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/iq4k, which aims to improve child care quality across the state. In addition to supporting providers, CCR&R agencies also offer parent referral services and consumer education, helping families navigate the child care system and find quality care options.

Child Care Nurse Consultants (CCNCs) are registered nurses who have early childhood training and are experts in child health, child care, and child safety. CCNC services are available statewide and are part of the Healthy Child Care Iowa program. ECE providers may call or email questions to their local CCNC about health and safety policies, health records, health resources, and specific child health or safety concerns. To contact your local CCNC go to https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci and click on the “CCNC Local Services Map”

Date: 11/30/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

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**.