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

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - West Des Moines **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26555

Street: 5859 Ashworth RD **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 8800 N Gainey Center Dr Ste300Attn: Accounts Receivable , Scottsdale, AZ, 85258

Director's Name: Kaitlyn Sheelsey **Phone Number:** 515-226-9791

On-Site Supervisor(s): Gina Newcomb/Carrie Hotchkiss/Gina Caranci **E-Mail:** director.ashworth@cadence-academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-13-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-16-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-22-2024

Comments : noted to be complaint; fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by West Des Moines Fire Dept.

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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	32	20	70		122
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-14-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year annual visit was completed 11-13-24. Director Kaitlyn Sheesley was present through the visit.

This center is part of the Cadence Academy organization, which has various centers located in the metro area. The director for this center is Kaitlyn Sheesley. Kaitlyn has been the director since December 2022; she has prior director experience and assistant director experience along with a Bachelor's degree in Child/Adult Family Services plus 10 years of child care experience. Gina Newcomb assumed the assistant director role in July of 2024; she has several years of prior experience in child care. Carrie Hotchkiss and Gina Caranci are on-site supervisors.

Cadence Academy--West Des Moines (Ashworth) is the sole occupant of the building; hours of operation are now 7:00 PM until 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. They provide care to infants up through school age. The center participates in the UPK program in cooperation with the West Des Moines school district.

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.

Room observations/Activities: Cadence Academies utilizes Ascend Curriculum which is similar to aspect of Creative Curriculum. Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with parents and offers ready access to the children's progress during the day. The center was well-stocked with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and activity centers. The classrooms were in ratio with staff engaged in leading group activities or helping children with independent play activities. Staff modeled good handwashing as well has having the children complete handwashing in pre-school areas; there was discussion that staff needed to help infants and young toddlers with handwashing after diaper changes as well.

Nutrition Practices: The center has an on-site kitchen and meals were being prepared by the assistant director on this day. Menus are rotated about every four weeks, and are crafted by corporate. Menus are observed to be in-line with CACFP guidelines (healthy, balanced meals). Meals and snacks are served family-style in the rooms by classroom teachers. The kitchen and storage were clean and organized.

Health and safety: Medications are stored in a medication box in the directors office, administered by the director or assistant director to hel keep an accurate and organized med administration. Emergency medications are stored in the classroom that the child attends. The assistant director and director are certified medication passers. There are handwashing signs posted. Bleach, water and soapy water are used to clean and sanitize. All classrooms have a first aid kit and there is also one in the kitchen. Tornado/Fire plans were observed to be posted and drills were documented to have been completed with the exception of Oct/2024. Radon was tested 6/2023 and all levels tests below 4.0 safe cutoff. Professionals inspect the HVAC, and the center had not yet received a completion certificate. Carbon Monoxide detectors are in the main room and back classroom. This center experienced flooding in December of 2022 and as a result was remodeled. This center is clean and very organized.

Playground: The outdoor play area is enclosed with chain link fencing; safety surfacing was sufficient and is comprised of rubber chips. The center has refreshed the safety surfacing and added shade structures. There are play ground structures and other activities available to the children. The playground checks were documented to have been completed monthly with the exception of OCT/2024.

Transportation/Field Trips: Transportation is not provided by the center.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility; consultant contact, License, Fire/Tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted. Eight child files were reviewed and contained all the required information; Five staff files were reviewed and contained all the necessary information; however staff physicals were documented to have been completed post-employment and it is required for staff to have a physical prior to employment. The center has well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a NAEYC accredited center.

The staff work well together and have strong relationships with the families they serve. The center has good communication with parents.

Conferences are held twice a year for all ages, in November and May. The center uses the Creative Curriculum as well as the Ascend Curriculum.

The center participates in the T.E.A.C.H program--T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

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

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: 5

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals. Discussion took place regarding the need for infants/young toddlers to have hands washed after diaper changes as well.

109.10(15)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. All drills were completed monthly except OCT 2024.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center offers classrooms well-stocked with toys and activity centers. The center is clean and organized with a secure entry.

The staff were observed to be engaged with the children's activities or leading a group activity. The children were observed to be content and to freely seek out staff including the director.

*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.