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

Name of Center: Ankeny Lil' Tots Daycare & Preschool LLC **Enrollment:** 193 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43390

Street: 732 SE Shurfine DR **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 732 SE Shurfine DR, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Erica Pierce/Keyara Adams **Phone Number:** 515-965-6754

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** epankenyliltots@hotmail.com Keyara.ankenyliltots@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-18-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-05-2022

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

Date Inspected: 05-15-2023

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	57	32	84	45	218
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 05-25-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 5/18/23. Erica and Keyara, the Directors, were present throughout the visit.

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.

This center opened in June 2014. Karrie Berger is the owner of this center. She was a registered in-home provider for 19 years prior to opening this center. There are two directors. One is Karrie's daughter Keyara Adams who has worked in child care since 2010. The other director is Erica Pierce. She has an associate degree in Early Childhood, and has worked in the field since 2010. Erica and Keyara meet the requirements for their positions.

The center will now be doing business as Ankeny Lil Tots Learning Academy. Their LLC will remain the same; Ankeny Lil' Tots Daycare and Preschool, and ownership will remain the same.

This center has 12 classrooms. They also have a 2500 square foot indoor large motor play area located at the front of the center. In addition, they have another indoor/outdoor playground area at the back of the center that is 3000 square foot in size. There is a large play area inside the center, and when the garage door is opened, the children can also play outdoors.

The center provides care to infants up through school age children, starting in June of 2023 they will only go up to 2nd grade for school age care. The center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

The center has developed their own curriculum by research of other curriculum's and experience. The center has researched Handwriting without Tears as well as the Creative curriculum. The center also communicates with the Ankeny school district about their assessments and what they are looking for regarding readiness for kindergarten and incorporates this into their curriculum.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a three star QRS rating.

Yearly parent surveys are done and have shown a high level of satisfaction with the center and the care of their children.

There are many long term staff at the center, with staff working since the center opened 9 years ago. Ten staff have worked at the center for 5 years or longer and 18 staff have worked at the center for a year or longer.

The staff work well together and care about the children. Staff communicate well with parents. The center uses the Tadpole app.

The center has a family atmosphere and is responsive to parents.

The staff feel appreciated and acknowledged. The center recognizes one employee every month as the employee of the month. The center has a shout out board for staff and parents to write out notes of appreciation for staff members. The center will buy lunch for the employees periodically and acknowledges their work anniversary's and birthdays with gifts. The center just had a week of teacher appreciation in May, doing something every day to show appreciation to staff.

There are bi-monthly staff meetings.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance. There is always someone up front to greet parents.

The Directors are almost always at the center and assist in the classrooms if necessary.

The center offers parent conferences twice a year with parents of all age of children enrolled and conducts assessments on all of the children twice a year.

The center installed cameras in every classroom and the playground, as well as the parking lot. This system records and has sound.

The center replaced the material on the indoor large motor play area, they put in new flooring, new paint and had an artist come out and paint murals on the walls.

The center put in new structures on the playground area and new surfacing.

The center will be putting in new flooring throughout the building, as well as new paint, new shelving units and new counters. The three year old classroom is currently under renovation and along with new flooring and paint, the room will have an additional toilet added and a window has been added to look out into the hallway.

The center has family activities. They will do a summer kick off event with food trucks, inflatables and games. They will have a preschool graduation party soon and they do a Christmas program.

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

109.8(2)e: At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting. If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained. Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained. The toddler rooms went down to one staff during nap time; these classrooms should always have ratio maintained as children under the age of two are defined as infants.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
An emergency prescription medication at the center had expired in October of 2022.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now required every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The center last completed radon testing in February of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected annually.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines. The center is on the food program.

Discussion took place regarding ratio in the toddler classrooms during nap time and maintaining ratio. The regulation was sent to the directors after the visit. They will ensure ratios are always maintained in these classrooms.

Discussion took place regarding the lighting in one infant room during nap time and increasing the visibility when an infant is sleeping in the back portion of the classroom. Lighting was also discussed in other classrooms where children were sleeping and increasing visibility in these rooms as well during nap time.

*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.