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

Name of Center: Acorns & Oaks Christian Academy **Enrollment:** 19 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48797

Street: 2323 Willis Ave **City:** Perry Iowa **Zip** 50220 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 2323 Willis Ave, Perry, IA, 50220

Director's Name: Amanda Ballentine **Phone Number:** 515-642-0064

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ciera Bromenberg and Allison Moreland **E-Mail:** mandi@acornsoaks.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-05-2024

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:** 07-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-05-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	5	5	32	0	42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-06-2024

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 8/5/24. The director and one of the on-site supervisors were present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Acorns and Oaks Christian Academy is a center in Perry, IA located within a lower level of the Perry Lutheran Home (as well as a preschool classroom in another wing of the building). The center was given permission to open on 7/10/17. The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly five years in age using the Creative Learning Curriculum and elements of Montessori in their teaching of children.

The center is overseen by a Board. Amanda Ballentine is the director of this program as of 7/2021. Amanda was previously the on-site supervisor. Amanda has worked in child care for several years and meets the requirements for director. Amanda is working towards a CNA. Ciera Bromenberg and Allison Moreland are the on-site supervisors. Both individuals meet the requirements for on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed having tummy time and having a diaper changed in the infant classrooms. Older children were all observed lying down or starting naps.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment remains steady.

The center uses the smart phone app Brightwheel for payments, forms, daily sheets, more communication with parents, etc.

The center has a Face Book page and a website. The center also does a monthly newsletter.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

There is a "buddy rope" system in place for when staff take younger children for walks.

The center caters to children with learning disabilities.

The center has good community partnerships. There are several community outreach events held throughout the year.

The director continues to believe she has a good group of staff working for her and that staff work well together. There is a

good mix of new and tenured staff. The director felt the staffs' relationships with families was also positive.

Cognitive assessments are completed on all children two and older enrolled.

There is a washer and dryer on site.

The center is beginning the IQ4K process which is voluntary and based on best practice.

The Board is involved.

The center is working towards NLSA accreditation.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

A constructed wall has been installed between the two year old classroom and the three - five year old classroom.

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: 1 newer staff member does not have a physical on file. This will need to be completed ASAP.

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1 staff member did not have current CPR.

109.12(4): Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.
Spacing between napping children in cots and cribs (unless there is Plexiglas siding on cribs) should be three feet apart.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Vanilla wafers are not considered credible per CACFP.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 7/22/21 - 7/23/21. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed on 7/17/24.

For the majority of field trips, the center walks to different places in the surrounding area. The center also sometimes uses one of the nursing home buses and also a driver for field trips not within walking distance. Parents are required to provide car seats if needed. The center continues to also bring in different agencies for presentations to children throughout the year.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. The center has had conversations with CCR&R about starting this process. Staff will need to continue to upload professional development training into I - Power.

It was noted one area of the floor is in need of repair in the three - five year old classroom. The director already has a work order put in for this repair.

*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.