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

Name of Center: Theodore's Academy Preschool and Childcare **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50989

Street: 3680 Glen Ellen Rd **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51106 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 3680 Glen Ellen Rd, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Paxi Cutler **Phone Number:** 712-560-4056

On-Site Supervisor(s): Melissa Bowman **E-Mail:** theodoresacademy@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-13-2023

Licensing Visit	Unannounced Visit		Off Year Visit	Administrative Change
		X		

LICENSING VISITS

New Application		Re-Application		NA
	X			

Signed Application (470-0722) Received		Yes		No		NA	Date Signed:	05-02-2022
	X							

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

Date Inspected: 04-19-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE:		Child Care		X	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		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	14	9	39		62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 06-14-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A visit was made to center on 06-13-23 and spoke with center Director Paxi Cutler and onsite supervisor Melissa Bowman. Paxi has a elementary degree and Melissa has her CDA and has worked in the head start program for several years. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold. The program is a center built in 2020 specifically for childcare. The program provides childcare from 6 weeks to age 6. Once child completed kindergarten then they have graduated from the center. Center had added onto their building which was completed on 10-05-21. Due to the addition capacity had increased from 42 to 62. Hours of the center is 7:00am to 5:30pm Monday thru Friday. The center has 5 classrooms. Infant room; 1 year old room; two 2 year old rooms; 3 year old room and 3-6 year PK room.

There are 45 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 38 children present. 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 has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

The program currently makes use of 5 rooms. Each room was observed to be clean with no issues due to maintenance. Each room has large windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light. Sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room is arranged so that there are no blind areas and the children have ample room to move and play in activity centers. The toys and materials present were appropriate to the ages of the children present in the classrooms and are new. Each room has a daily schedule and curriculum posted. The playground is a large grassy area for the children to run and play. Center needs more shade on the playground as the shade structure the center has is not enough for the number of children they serve. The center applied for a grant money to add additional shade which they are still waiting for the materials to come in so contractor can put shade up. The center also added a toddler playground separate from the older children which has turf/sod for surfacing. They have added various umbrellas for this area for shade.

All required postings were present and in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Radon has been completed and in normal range, however all child occupied rooms need to be tested. All appliances, water heater and furnace are all electric. Emergency fire and tornado drills were logged. The center handbooks contain all required policies. The center does not qualify for the food program, however, follow the food program requirements. Meals are provided by the Sioux City Schools, however, the center will substitute meals if needed. Good food storage.

The preschool program will use High Scope Curriculum.

Goals of the center are to complete the playground with shade and add trees, They have started the IQ4K application and in hoping of submitting at a level 3 out of 5 levels; to have all staff have their CDA's; and implement security policies.

Strengths of the program is they feel have a good curriculum for the children they serve and lesson plans are made for all the children they serve. Center is very organized. Good core staff. Staff have completed passport trainings, and both the Director and Onsite have completed the Director Administrative training with Hawkeye Community College. Lead teachers

have completed Iders and Eccers training. Staff seem interested in obtaining more education to enhance the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has a very strong curriculum focus that works with the younger children to help them develop strong school readiness skills in behavioral, developmental, and academic performance.

Center has a QRS(Quality Rating System) of 2 out of 3. Program is applying for the IQ4K program in hopes to start at a level 3 which will replace the QRS program which expires in August 2023.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
Playground needs shade completed on the playground. Director hopes to have shade structure in place by mid summer.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center needs to email consultant confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected by 07-31-23. It is recommended to update the centers emergency preparedness policies.

A full license is recommended.

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.