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

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Ankeny **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28339

Street: 225 E 1st St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Kristi Parsons **Phone Number:** 515-964-7372

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amie Littlefield **E-Mail:** director.ankeny@cadence-academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-18-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-13-2022

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

Date Inspected: 10-12-2020

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 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	24	24	62		110
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-02-2022

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 11/18/22. The director and on-site supervisor were present during 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 is part of the Cadence organization, which has various centers located within the metro area. In Dec. 2013 these centers were purchased by Phoenix Children's Academy, which is now called Cadence Education. The Regional Director is Staci Patterson. The center director is Kristi Parsons who has been with this center since 1998, and became the assistant director in 2016. The assistant director is Amie Littlefield, who began in this role officially in May of 2022. Amie has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and worked for this center for 21 years prior to becoming the assistant director. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

Hours of operation are now 7:00 am till 5:30 pm. They serve children ages six weeks up through age five. They do not provide school age care.

There are five enclosed classrooms, plus the large open area in the middle of the building that is used for the four and five year old children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has maintained their NAEYC accreditation and just this year went through the re-accreditation process.

This center has an IQ4K rating of 4 stars, based on a 1-5 scale. The center is working on renewing the rating for a 5 star and has been working with their CCR&R consultant.

The center has a very strong relationship with the families they serve. Families consistently give this center high reviews on a survey that is given by their parent company.

The center has some long term staff, with one staff at the center for 16 years, one at 6 years, one at 3 years and one at 2 years. The director has been at the center for 24 years and the assistant director has been with the center for 22 years.

The staff work well together and are professional and dedicated. Since there are various centers in the area, staff can assist in other Cadence centers as needed.

Several staff have college education. Two teachers have an associates degree and three teachers have their Bachelor's degree. One staff is working toward a CDA.

The center uses a well rounded curriculum, the Creative Curriculum. The center recently added the Kind Child Curriculum. This curriculum focuses on the social and emotional development of the child and starts in the two year old room. The center also incorporates the Ascend Curriculum which is child led through play and themes. Cadence has a curriculum team. This center added a diversity curriculum for children and staff.

The center has a Facebook page and a website and has recently gone to an App for daily contacts which the parents and teachers like. The center uses an app called Kids Report.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center conducts family events which have a large turnout. This has not been taking place as much during the pandemic.

Each classroom has an intercom which allows for easy and quick communication to the office.

The center continues to have monthly staff meetings, these are now conducted in person.

The center participates in the TEACH program. The director is currently working toward her Bachelor's degree and another teacher is also working toward her Bachelor's degree.

The Cadence corporation is a strong support for the center.

The center is participating in the WAGES program.

The staff have shown dedication and resiliency during this time of the pandemic and have worked long hours. The staff have pulled together and are supportive of each other and a strong team.

The administrative team work well together and are a strong team. The administrative team sends monthly letters to families with updates and information. The administrative team does a weekly check in with staff.

The center just had cameras installed in all of the classrooms, the playground and in the front of the building.

The center is clean with good room set up and room arrangement.

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

109.12(4): .Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.
Additional concerns: Children were sleeping on cots that were not covered.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The last radon test was completed in November of 2021 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff in all rooms tested.

The furnace is inspected yearly, the last inspection was completed in October of 2022.

The center is having someone make covers for all of the cots for sleeping. This is a big order as several of the cots do not have a cover. The order has been out for a few weeks and they anticipate getting new cot covers soon.

Discussion took place regarding the washer and dryer in the two year old bathroom and either moving these or placing locks on the appliances.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.