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

Name of Center: The Study Loft By Tree House **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 44221

Street: 110 NW 9th ST **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2401 W 1st ST, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Missey Michel/Mindy Seeman **Phone Number:** 515-965-5505

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katie Swick **E-Mail:** melinda@treehouseglc.com melissa@treehouseglc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-12-2023

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:** 03-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 05-09-2022

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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				53	53
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 04-21-2023

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 4/12/23.

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 is a school age only program that is owned by Mindy Seeman and her sister Missey Michel. They also own three other centers named The Tree House, The Tree House at Northview and the Study Loft at Autumn Crest. Mindy and Missey both taught in elementary school and felt the children were not coming in with basic skills they should have. They felt they could have a positive impact on the learning of young children, so they left their teaching jobs and opened up their first daycare center in 2008. In 2014, they opened up this school age only site in a small building. In 2016 they opened up another child care center that serves all ages. In 2018, they opened up another Study Loft at Autumn Crest.

Missey and Mindy have director qualified on-site supervisors at each of their four programs and these on-site supervisors are in charge of the day to day operations.

The on-site supervisor at this center is Katie Swick. Katie has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Katie was the On-Site Supervisor at the other Study Loft for almost two years and prior work experience in childcare. Katie meets qualifications for this role.

The Study Loft opened in October of 2014. They had the opportunity to expand into an adjoining suite, so in the fall of 2015 they were able to remodel the adjoining suite and increase their capacity from 26 up to 53 children. Late start Wednesday mornings are the only mornings they are open before school. After school care is offered M-F from 3:15-6:00 pm. On non-school days and during the summer all day care is offered from 6:30 am-6:00 pm.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The environment of the Study Loft does not have a child care center feel at all. Instead it is a place with a game and TV room, a library area, an area for yoga and exercise, and just space to spread out and hang out with friends. The children tend to act more responsible and grown up when attending this site. They know it is a privilege and they are the lucky ones if they get to attend this site.

Time is allowed each day for children to do their homework or read. The staff are able to help with homework if needed. Parents appreciate this because sometimes activities get in the way of time at home to do homework.

The center is able to be flexible with families.

The center offers several field trips in the summer and is able to take the children to several different activities. The center

has a good summer program.

The center does STEM projects with the children and will conduct labs in the summer months. The center sends home sheets with the parents about skills and needs for each child.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter and also has a Facebook page and a website. In the summer months the center uses the Tadpoles App which allows parents to have up to the minute information about their child during the day.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has a good reputation in the community. Their enrollment is high and they will be fully enrolled in the summer.

The staff keep the children engaged. The staff are reliable.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if the test is below the 4.0 cutoff. The center last conducted radon testing in March of 2023 and the rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The program is able to use the large green space at the middle school, which is in the back of the building. The program has a good relationship with the school and the school keeps the area clean and mowed and available for the children.

*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.