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

Name of Center: Ankeny Christian Academy **Enrollment:** 107 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27508

Street: 1604 W 1st St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1604 W 1st St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Teri Strong **Phone Number:** 515-963-9933

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** teri.strong@acaeagles.net

Date(s) of Visit: 01-12-2023

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:** 12-21-2021

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

Date Inspected: 08-15-2022

Comments :

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			43	35	78
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 02-06-2023

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 1/12/23. The director was 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. The playground was snow covered.

This child care program was started in January 2001. They offer care to preschool age children and school age children. They provide preschool, year round full day child care, and before and after school age care. The program is in operation from 6:45 am-5:45 pm. Teri Strong is the director for the three programs. She has been with this program since 2004, and has been the director since 2006. She is a licensed preschool teacher and meets the requirements for the program director position.

There is one room used for the child care program. This room has a capacity for 22 children. There is a bathroom with sinks across the hall from the child care room. Activity centers are arranged throughout the room.

There is one room used for the preschool program and it has a capacity for 21 children, however they like to cap this room at 18 children the majority of the time. The T/Th classes are for three year old children, and the M/W/F classes are for the four and five year old children. The morning classes meet from 8:00-11:00 am, and the afternoon class meets from noon-3:00 pm. Teri Strong is the preschool teacher.

Some of the children who attend the preschool program also use the child care program for the days and times when they are not in preschool. Some of the children who start using the child care or preschool program will also attend this school program when old enough.

The school age programs operates from 6:45-7:30 am, and after school from 3:20-5:45 pm. They use the childcare room in the mornings before school since only a few school age children use this service. The after school program uses the two rooms and the cafeteria. The kindergarten and first graders use the preschool room, and the 2nd-6th graders use the multi-purpose room and cafeteria.

Childcare ends at 7:30 am and school starts at 8:00 am. For that half hour in-between, all the students gather in the multi-purpose room and are under the supervision of the school.

The staff in the child care room have their own curriculum that does not duplicate what the preschool is teaching. They use Abeka which is a religious based curriculum, and they loosely use Creative Curriculum. They also use Handwriting Without Tears. Their curriculum is well rounded and meets the physical, emotional, and developmental needs of the children. Current lesson plans were posted. The preschool has started using a monthly theme, rather than a weekly theme. This allows them to expand on a theme and not rush through a theme in a week time frame.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is a core group of staff with the preschool and child care programs. This stability is an asset to a program that continues to grow every year.

Teri believes their four year old preschool program has a stronger emphasis on academics than what a lot of other preschools do. They get a lot of referrals from word of mouth of current and previous families they have served. The program does not have to advertise for enrollment.

The preschool offers full day care to the families they serve which is a benefit for working families who need full day child care.

The program has a strong working relationship and partnership with the school.

Teri has been with the school and the preschool for twenty-five years and is a strong resource for the program.

The program has a family atmosphere and the staff work well together. Teri states there is a good working environment at this program and the staff are invested in providing quality and nurturing care to the children. Staff are appreciated and Teri conducts staff activities.

The program has the Lions Club come out to do vision screenings and Heartland comes out to do hearing screenings.

The center has a secure entrance.

The staff are creative and take pride in their classrooms.

Some staff have been with the program for 7-8 years. The staff work well together and balance/compliment each other's strengths.

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

109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents.
A mandatory reporting poster of suspected child abuse was not posted at the center.

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
One staff file reviewed did not contain certificates for professional development training for the past year.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: One child file reviewed did not have information regarding a preferred dentist, or a preferred hospital choice.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.
The childcare classroom was observed during nap time. The classroom was too dark, without adequate or sufficient lighting to visually observe the children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The last test was completed in October of 2021 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected annually by the school.

The center is no longer on the food program. Children can bring in their own lunch or buy a school lunch. The center provides snacks.

A mandatory reporting poster was emailed to the director after the visit.

The director will ensure child files have all of the necessary and required information. The director will ensure staff have all of their certificates for training completed.

The director advised the staff in the childcare classroom that the room was too dark and will remind staff that sufficient and adequate lighting is necessary during nap time to visually observe the children.

The school has grown with enrollment and will be taking over the preschool and childcare classrooms next school year. The program is looking at renting space from Faith Baptist college and hope to move their preschool and childcare program to the new location by August of this year. The school age program will remain at the school for after school care, however before school care for school age children will be at the new location.

*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.