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

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Clive **Enrollment:** 77 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25879

Street: 14300 Hickman RD **City:** Clive Iowa **Zip** 50325 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Kara Langner **Phone Number:** 515-987-2137

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shannon **E-Mail:** director.heartland@cadence-academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-17-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-25-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-10-2024

Comments : Fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by Urbandale Fire Dept.

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 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	16	12	50	24	102
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 04-21-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 4-17-25. The Director was present throughout the visit.

This center opened in 1997 and was a part of the Apple Tree organization which has centers located throughout the metro area. In 2013 these centers were purchased by Phoenix Children's Academy which is now called Cadence Education. The center name has changed to Cadence Academy Preschool.

Each center has a director that meets the 100 point requirements, and every assistant director/on-site supervisor meets the 75 point requirement. Kara Langner assumed the director role 2/2025. Kara has a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership and Human Services along with four years of director experience and many years of child care experience. The school is working to establish an assistant director.

This center continues to operate in a wing of the Heartland Presbyterian Church. They rent the space from the church; there is no religious affiliation or financial support from the church, however they have a strong partnership. Hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm.

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.

Room observations/activities: This center is using the Ascend Curriculum along with the Kaymbu application to communicate with parents. While this center has had recent transition of staff; rooms are in ratio. The staff were observed to be responsive to the children and to maintain structure in the rooms with nurturing responses to the children and children were content. The classrooms do offer a good variety of toys and play centers for each age level. The staff observed leading a group activity or involved in art projects with the children in the classrooms.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The center is following CACFP guidelines in the menus, that are crafted by the director and corporate, rotating seasonally. The centers kitchen is being remodeled and meals are temporarily prepared in the adjacent church's kitchen. The storage was clean. The kitchen being utilized was clean with menu's posted.

Health/Safety: Medication is kept in a lock box in the kitchen. Handwashing signs are posted. There are first aid kits in the rooms. Tornado/Fire emergency plans/diagrams were posted. Drills were documented as completed. Radon, tested in 2021, with results below 4.0, is now due again in 2026. The church maintains the HVAC which appears to be either a heat pump similar. The director would secure an HVAC inspection certificate and provide this to licensing. There is a carbon monoxide detector in all classrooms.

Playground: This playground is divided by ages; and enclosed with chain link and wood-privacy fencing. There is one shade structure and the director would like to secure another to be utilized on the opposite side of the playground as the existing

shade structure. . Play structures appear in good repair. Surfacing in wood chips.

Transportation/Field trips: NA

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporter; handbook, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans, and nonsmoking signs were posted. Five staff files were reviewed, with two staff needing to update CPR/First aid, one staff in need of repeated national checks (fingerprint checks); and one staff needed to provide an updated physical form. Five child files were reviewed; three needed an annual update. This center has recently established a new director and staff transitions; so the center is working to review all files and ensure necessary updates are provided.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has their NAEYC accreditations. The center has been NAEYC accredited for over twenty years.

The children who attend pre-school at this center are prepared and ready for Kindergarten.

The center partners with the TEACH program. T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center now has cameras in every classroom that record.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. One staff was in need of repeated national checks.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Number not in compliance: 5
This center a newly established director and staff transitions have occurred; The director is working to have annual staff trainings occur/updated certificates.

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

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
The director indicated that the staff has scheduled to completed CPR/First Aid on the date of this visit.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
The director is working to review child files and updating the files for all.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under 4.0 cutoff. The last radon testing was completed between February and April of 2021 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The staff were observed to be engaged in leading group activities or meeting individual child needs. The children appeared engaged in activities and content.

*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.