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

**Name of Center:** Theodore's Academy Preschool and Childcare **Enrollment:** 50 **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:** 06-17-2025

**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:** 05-03-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-11-2025

**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* | *Summary Only* |
|---|---|---|---|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 14 | 9 | 39 | | 62 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 3

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 06-24-2025

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

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

I completed an unannounced visit to this center on 06/17/25. I was able to meet with Director Paxi Cutler. Paxi has an elementary degree and has worked in the early childcare field for the last several years. The on-site supervisor Melissa Bowman has her CDA. Director and onsite have completed the Director Administrative training with Hawkeye Community College.

The program provides childcare from 6 weeks to age 6. Once a child completes kindergarten they have graduated from the center. The hours of the center are 7:00am to 5:30pm Monday thru Friday. The center has 5 classrooms including an infant room, 1 year old room, two 2-year-old rooms, 3-year-old room and 3–6-year PK room. There are 50 children enrolled at this center.

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.

There are large windows/ and glass walls throughout the center making it easy for staff or parents to view what is going on in these rooms. It also adds a lot of natural light.

The center uses the Highscope curriculum and has many visual aids on the walls including the alphabet, colors, numbers and artwork from the children. The environment is very positive. Staff work on making these children problem solvers when there is question or concern. Their goal is to develop thinking skills in the children that they care for.

Sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Bathrooms were observed to be clean and had hand washing visual signs. 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. They do have large umbrellas that they use for shade. The center added a separate toddler playground. This summer they are adding a cement area for outside play. They also have garden boxes that they have planted.

Radon has been completed and in normal range. All appliances including the 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. If they need to substitute meals if needed.

They continue to train staff in PBIS and Obtain their CDA certificate. The lead teachers have completed ECERS and ITERS training. These training courses are designed to provide knowledge and skills to create environments that allow children to thrive.

Staff are very invested in learning and becoming better teachers.

Goals include finishing the cement project for the playground. They also will continue to train their staff using the PBIS training and encouraging staff to work on their CDA.

**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 IQ4K rating of a level 3 out of 5.

This center is very clean and well organized. It presents a very positive atmosphere.

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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.