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: 11-07-2024

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:** 11-14-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-16-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years; Completed by Ankeny Fire Dept Tyson Hood.

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: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-14-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 11-7-24. Director Kristi Parsons and AD Amie Littlefield were present through the visit.

This center is part of the Cadence organization, which has various centers located within the metro area. The center director is Kristi Parsons who has been with this center since 1998. The assistant director is Amie Littlefield, who began in this role officially in May of 2022.. 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.

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: . The Ascend program is used for curriculum which is set by corporate for all Cadence Centers. Corporate also sends out monthly themes and materials that teachers are able to choose and integrate in the classrooms. Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with parents and that parents can view for daily progress. The classrooms offer a good variety of toys and activity centers that are age/developmentally appropriate. Staff were actively engaged with the children by leading group or by attending to restroom/diaper changes. The children were observed to be content and to seek out staff freely. The classrooms were organized to allow for good supervision in the rooms.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and the center has a dedicated cook. Meals are set by corporate and are in-line with CACFP guidelines (healthy, balanced meals). Menus are rotated and meals/snacks are served in the children's respective classrooms family-style by staff. The kitchen was very clean and organized with menus posted as required.

Health and Safety: Emergency medications are stored securely in the classrooms. Non-emergency medications are stored in the office securely, administered by the director or assistant director. There were first aid kits in all rooms. Handwashing posters were posted and good handwashing technique was observed. Fire/Tornado drills were documented as completed monthly as required. Emergency exit diagrams were posted in all rooms. All classrooms have a carbon monoxide detector. Walkways were clear.

Playground: The outdoor play area is enclosed by fencing and offers play structures and outdoor toys. Natural shade trees have been removed from the outdoor play ground--leaving exposed roots, one in the toddler area that stuck up no less than five inches and on which a child fell, incurring injury. On west side of the outdoor play area; where older children have access there is a four foot wide hole in the safety surfacing, and it is depressed several inches. The fencing meant to keep the children off this area has degraded and no longer prevents access to this area. There is another area where the safety surface was compromised and needs replaced as well. Heavy discussion took place with regard to the need to have this play area renovated to improve safety as this area of the center is not ,consistent with the quality of the other areas of the center and

quality of staff.

Transportation/Field Trips: no transportation is provided at this time.

Administrative review: The center has required posting for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado drills and non-smoking signs. Ten child files were reviewed and contained all necessary information; Seven employee files were reviewed that contained all required information. This center has a well established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has maintained their NAEYC accreditation.

This center has attained IQ4K status (quality rating system in Iowa).

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.

This center offers several long-term staff including the director and assistant director. The staff are engaged with the children and work well as a team.

Several staff have college education including staff with Bachelor's, associates and CDA certificates.

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 has a secure entrance.

The center conducts family events which have a large turnout.

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

The center participates in the Child Care WAGES and T.E.A.C.H programs (Child Care WAGE$ Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual’s level of formal education and commitment to their program).

The Cadence corporation is a strong support for the center.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

Natural shade trees have been removed from the outdoor play ground--leaving exposed roots, one in the toddler area that stuck up no less than five inches and on which a child fell, incurring injury. On west side of the outdoor play area; where older children have access there is a four foot wide hole in the safety surfacing, and it is depressed several inches. The fencing meant to keep the children off this area has degraded and no longer prevents access to this area. There is another area where the safety surface was compromised and needs replaced as well. Heavy discussion took place with regard to the need to have this play area renovated to re-establish child safety as this area of the center is not ,consistent with the quality of the other areas of the center and quality of staff.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A new two-year full license is recommended, with the recommendation that renovation of the outdoor play area to correct the safety concerns noted.

The staff were observed to be engaged in the children's activities and responsive to their needs. The children were content

and freely approach the staff with requests, including the director and assistant director.

This interior of this center is very nicely arranged offering a good variety of toys and play centers. The exterior play area needs improvement and is not reflective of the good quality of classroom and staff compositions.

Discussion took place in 2022 regarding the washer and dryer in the two year old bathroom and either moving these or placing locks on the appliances. he washer/dryer have now been enclosed.

*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.