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

**Name of Center:** Ankeny Christian Academy Childcare **Enrollment:** 63 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52236

**Street:** 1900 NW 4th St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

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

**Director's Name:** Teri Ellwanger **Phone Number:** 515-971-9622

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

**Date(s) of Visit:** 01-29-2024

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-14-2023

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

**Date Inspected:** 08-01-2023

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:** **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** Profit X Non-Profit NA

**Accredition:** Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

**Program Serves:** Infants (0-23 mo.) 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 | | | 42 | | 42 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 02-20-2024

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

NA

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

A full-licensing visit was completed 1-29-24 and the director was present through the entire visit.

Ankeny Christian Academy Childcare was started in 2001 and was given permission to open at this site on 8-11-23. This program is now located in a renovated building on the campus of Faith Baptist Bible College. They offer care to preschool age children, year round full day child care, and before and after school age care (at another site) . The program is in operation from 6:45 am-5:45 pm. Teri Ellwanger 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.

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.

Room observations/activities: There are two rooms with a total capacity of 42. This program uses the Abeka curriculum and also pulls from Iowa Early Learning standards. There is a text message group the program uses to communication with parents. The staff are in ratio and there is good structure maintained. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activity centers and toys. Lesson plans, and menus are posted. There is a jack 'n' Jill bathroom that was clean and stocked with necessary toiletries. Handwashing signs did need posted. Staff are in ratio and maintained a structure in the rooms; the children were content and observed to access their teachers; who provided nurturing responses.

Nutrition Practices: The children enrolled bring their own lunches or have the option of ordering through the dining hall from the adjacent college. The program follows CACFP guidelines for snack. Meals/snacks are served family style in the classrooms. Menus were posted.

Health/safety: This program requires parents to administer medications; if there are emergency medications, they would be stored securely. There are first aid kits in each room. Tornado/Fire emergency exit plans needed posted. Fire/Tornado drills were documented as completed monthly as required. Radon testing has not yet been completed and this site has up to one year to provide testing results. HVAC is maintained by the college. There two carbon monoxide detectors on site.

Playground: This center is located on a large campus and has use of a large green space; which is currently snow covered but was observed in Aug 2023 upon permission to open.

Transportation/Field trips: Parents provide daily transportation and transportation for field trips.

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, and consultant contact were posted. Upon receipt of full license, this will be posted. Fire/Tornado plans needed posted as did non-smoking signs. Five child files were reviewed and were complete; two employee files were reviewed and contained all required information.

**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.

The Director 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 childcare.

The program has a strong working relationship and partnership with the school and now with the Faith Baptist Bible College where the preschool now operates from.

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 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:**

109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children.Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards.If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.

Tornado/Fire emergency exit diagrams need to be posted throughout the center.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The director provided information the emergency exit diagrams had been posted as required.

The director provided information that non-smoking signs had been posted as required.

This program was observed to have staff that work as a team to maintain structure in the classrooms, where children are content and staff provided nurturing responses to the children.

A two-year full license is recommended.

*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.