

## CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

|                             |                               |                             |                                     |                     |       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| <b>Name of Center:</b>      | Apple Tree Early Child Center | <b>Enrollment:</b>          | 107                                 | <b>License ID:</b>  | 51852 |
| <b>Street:</b>              | 1070 7th AVE NE               | <b>City:</b>                | Sioux Center                        | <b>IA Zip Code:</b> | 51250 |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>     | 1070 7th AVE NE               |                             |                                     |                     |       |
| <b>Mailing City:</b>        | Sioux Center                  | <b>IA Zip Code:</b>         | 51250                               |                     |       |
| <b>Director's Name:</b>     | Jessica Vermulm               | <b>Center Phone Number:</b> | 712-722-4336                        |                     |       |
| <b>On-Site Supervisors:</b> | Amanda Schwartz               | <b>E-Mail Address:</b>      | director.ecc@appletreechildcare.com |                     |       |

**Date of Complaint:** 10-15-2025 **Date of Visit:** 10-17-2025

☐ Scheduled ☒ Unannounced ☐ NA

☒ Non-Compliance with Regulations Found ☐ Compliance with Regulations Found

**RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE**

☒ NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

☐ PROVISIONAL license from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

☐ SUSPENSION of License

☐ REVOCATION of License

**Complaint Details:**

Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Summary of Complaint:**

On 10/15/25 it was alleged that a staff member was aggressive with a child who was struggling to take a nap.

**Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:**

109.12(2)a-d The center shall not use as a form of discipline:Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping.Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed. Children shall never be locked in a room or closet. When restraints are part of a treatment plan for a child with a disability authorized by a parent and a psychologist or psychiatrist, staff shall receive training on the safe and appropriate use of the restraint.Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not to be used.No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family.

**Inspection Findings:**

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On 10/15/25 this worker and other HHS personnel went to the center in regard to this concern. The following is based on interviews with the director, other staff members, observations of the classroom as well as record review.

109.12(2)a-d

The center shall not use as a form of discipline:

Center does not use corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, or slapping.

Punishment which is humiliating or frightening or causes pain or discomfort is not allowed. Children shall never be locked in a room or closet. When restraints are part of a treatment plan for a child with a disability authorized by a parent and a psychologist or psychiatrist, staff shall receive training on the safe and appropriate use of the restraint.

Punishment or threat of punishment associated with illness, toilet training, or food or rest is not to be used.

No child is subject to verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks about child or child's family. **RULE VIOLATED**

Although it was determined that the staff member was being aggressive, this center responded appropriately and addressed the incident and termination of employee occurred.

**Special Notes and Action Required:**

**Consultant's Signature:**

Leann Steinhauer

**Date:**

11-13-2025