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

Name of Center: Apple Daycare Inc **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 37651

Street: 119 N 7th St **City:** Sheffield Iowa **Zip** 50475 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: PO Box 693, Sheffield, IA, 50475

Director's Name: Lori Sanders **Phone Number:** 641-892-4647

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** appledaycare1@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-11-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-15-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X 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	7		26		33
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 01-22-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Apple Daycare on 01-11-24 where I met with the center director Lori Sanders. Lori has been involved with this program from its inception in 2012 initially as a board member and later as the director in 2014. Lori is well qualified for the position based on her experience, attending professional development training, and a BA in business management. The center is located in an old one room church that is owned by the school and has been remodeled for use as a daycare. While the building is owned by the school it is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a separate board of directors. The daycare is the only program that is operating in the building. The program also makes use of space at the school in the gymnasium in the summer when needed for overflow programming with school age children. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are approximately 50 children currently enrolled in the center served by 11 teachers. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The center layout remains the same as observed in prior visits and consists of a large open space that has been divided by a 3/4 wall into two areas with one for infants, and the other for the pre-school and school age children. Low mobile shelving units further divide the space for the preschool and school age children. The program is working on completing renovations to a lower level which will be used for school age programming once completed. Restrooms and sinks are located in the preschool area so that children do not need to leave the room and staff can provide supervision as needed. A changing station and additional sinks are located in the infant area. Large windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light, ventilation, and view of the outdoors. A second door and ramp has been added to the back of the building to provide direct secondary egress and access to the playground space. While the door did open it was noted that with the change in weather it did require more force to open but not at a level that would be considered excessive or prohibitive for the staff of the daycare. This does need to be monitored and if it does continue to become increasingly difficult to open the center will need to have maintenance performed. The facility was observed to be clean. There were a few minor maintenance issues such as floor tiles that were beginning to curl, door cabinets with loose/sagging hinges, and a shelving unit with damage to the backing. While these did not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern these should also be monitored and maintenance scheduled. The center has a basement which serves as an emergency shelter, storage, and houses an office area.

In visiting the classrooms each is divided in to programming areas through the placement of furnishings and play structures. The toys and materials present in each area were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. With the preschool area that space is divided into two areas with the placement of shelving to provide for programming that separates younger preschool from older preschool children. The spaces consist of one area with tables used for eating, and programming activities that require a flat stable surface such as art/crafts, and writing. The other has centers that include large/small manipulatives, dramatic play, and a media center used for music and movement, and group learning. The age groups follow schedules that rotate them between the the two spaces to accommodate the curriculum plan and developmentally appropriate play activities for the two groups. The planned curriculum identifies a general learning theme, and identified specific number, letter, color, and shape learning concepts which is the same for both groups but with activities that are specific to the developmental levels of the children. The center has added Zoophonics to the curriculum planning to help the children with learning letters, speech, and other cognitive skills.

All staff were observed to be engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The teachers in the preschool classroom were following the planned schedule and curriculum. During the visit the older preschool children were engaged in a large group activity of completing coloring pages that were letter concept focused. The other younger preschool children were engaged in an activity of the teacher reading a story to the children and then transitioning to individual free choice play activities. In the infant area the staff were also engaged with the children either attending to their needs or playing with them on the floor. Good behavior management techniques were observed with staff redirecting children if needed.

Good Health and safety policies and practices were observed on the day of the visit. During the visit I was not able to observe a diaper change but the staff in the infant room did identify the steps they follow and these were consistent with required practices. A copy of the required changing procedures positing was present. The center also had postings in the infant room to identify one sink for hand washing, and one for food/bottle preparation by posting signs to specify the intended use for each. For older children that were able to use the restroom on their own the teachers did provide supervision and assistance as needed. The center is currently using a bleach water solution for disinfecting changing table surfaces and good cleaning practices were observed. All chemical cleaners, purses, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. Staff waited for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Emergency numbers are posted by the center phone. The center does have first aid kits present which did contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center did not have any children currently taking any prescription medications. All over the counter medications were properly labeled and stored. There were no infants sleeping at the time of the visit but the staff identified that they do follow safe sleep practices. It was noted that one crib did have a mattress with a torn waterproof cover and this does need to be replaced.

The center does have a small kitchen space where meals are prepared. Good food storage practices were generally observed with all but one bulk cereal package placed in air tight sealable food grade containers after they had been opened. This included food items stored in the kitchen, and the infant area. Thermometers were present in all refrigeration units and indicated proper cold holding temperatures were being maintained. A menu with a good variety of nutritious food options is posted and was followed on the day of my visit. One issue that was noted is the center had hotdogs that were of a pork and chicken blend. While hotdogs are allowable they must be a 100% beef product. Good food preparation and handling practices were observed. Meals are pre-portioned for the children using measured scoops to ensure each child receives a full portion. Staff did wear food service gloves when plating meals. Supervision was provided at the tables when the children were eating.

The playground is fully fenced and has mature trees that provide shade. There are no climbing structures requiring fall surfacing. There is a shed that is used to store a variety of toys and equipment. There are other activity centers such as riding area, a music area, and large open green space area.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. A random sample of 12 of the children's files was conducted and of the files reviewed all those with the exception of new enrollments did not have documentation of an annual update. A review of 5 staff files found that while generally complete 2 needed a renewed Iowa SING background check. Several did not have current 1st Aid/CPR training and Lori noted that they are waiting on the practical skills testing and that a time was scheduled for later in the month to have that completed. Inspections logs and certificates were current and available with the exception of Radon Testing which Lori stated would have been conducted by the school maintenance department which would have the records. Lori did contact that individual and left a message requesting a copy of the results. The center installed a Radon Mitigation System in April 2021 which has a continuous monitor system. Testing should be done 2 years following installation, and if the continuous monitor is found to be accurate testing can then be renewed every 5 years thereafter.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has continued to make progress toward completing renovations to the lower level for use by school age children. A secondary exit has been added, and work has been schedule to renovate a bathroom.

The center has also begun working toward IQ4K certification which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- number not in compliance: 2

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

-- All files reviewed with the exception of new enrollments needed documentation that parents have reviewed and updated contact information, and authorizations.

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- The staff are using an electronic communication application to complete infant daily logs and while the system does have the functionality to record all required information daily disposition and activities were not being documented.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.