



Health and
Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: A to Z Learning Tree Preschool and
School Age Care

Provider No.: 28702

Address: 209 Barre St, Kingsley, IA, 51028

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Ann Bowman

On-Site Supervisor: Carrie Book

Phone Number: 7123783112

E-Mail: klb@evertek.net

HHS Visit Date: 06/03/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2025 to 06/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/17/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- ☐ PTO
- ☒ Licensing Visit
- ☐ Drop In
- ☐ Administrative Change

License Type:

- ☒ Full
- ☐ Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- ☐ Accrediation

Program Duration:

- ☒ Year-Round
- ☐ School Year
- ☐ Summer Only



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HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- ☐ Infant(0-<24 Months)
- ☐ Toddler
- ☒ PreSchool
- ☒ School Age
- ☐ All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			30	37	67
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at A-to-Z Learning Tree Preschool on 06/03/26. During the visit, I met with the director, Ann Bowman. Ann has many years of experience in childcare and holds a four-year degree in Early Childhood Education.

A-to-Z Learning Tree Preschool is located in the downtown area of Kinsley in a building specifically designed and constructed for childcare use. The facility consists of one large classroom space and two bathrooms. The program operates year-round from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during the school year. They serve children ages three through school age. The center offers preschool for 4- and 5-year-olds on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for 3-year-olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Extended-day care is available from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. The program also operates a summer program serving children ages three through sixth grade, with summer hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All areas of the program were observed during the visit, including classroom activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, playground supervision, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative documentation. There are currently 40 children enrolled, with 24 children present at the time of the visit.

The center is very clean and well organized, which is important because a clean, orderly environment supports children's health, reduces safety hazards, and helps ensure that staff can supervise effectively. The space is bright, with ample natural light in addition to white walls that make the environment feel open and welcoming. The center is decorated with age-appropriate, creative materials. Small lockers are available for children to store their belongings while in attendance. There are many colorful visual aids displayed throughout the classroom, including the alphabet, numbers, and picture-word cards that visually demonstrate the meaning of each word. The classroom contains a wide variety of age-appropriate toys and

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activities, such as puzzles, a play kitchen, dress-up materials, blocks, books, games, cars, a computer station, tools, a dollhouse, and art supplies. Children's artwork is displayed around the room, creating a welcoming and child-centered environment. I also noted photographs of each child's family hanging in the classroom. This practice helps promote a sense of security and belonging by allowing children to see images of their parents and siblings throughout the day. The center also displays class photos. Children are assigned classroom jobs each week, such as line leader and door holder, which helps support responsibility and routine.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum, which is a research-based early childhood program that emphasizes hands-on learning, child-led exploration, and developmentally appropriate practices. This curriculum supports growth in all developmental areas, including social-emotional skills, language and literacy, cognitive development, and physical skills. It also provides structured guidance for teachers while allowing flexibility to meet each child's individual needs.

Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and properly documented. Radon testing has been completed, and results were within the normal range. The annual furnace inspection has also been completed. The center has a small kitchen where breakfast, lunch, and snacks are prepared and served on site. Although the kitchen does not include a stove, staff utilize crock pots, an air fryer, a microwave, and a roaster to prepare meals. The center follows the requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The playground has recently been updated with turf, and there is a nice variety of age-appropriate playground equipment available for the children. A shaded area is also provided, offering protection from the sun during outdoor play. All equipment observed was in good repair. The center does not use vehicles for transportation; however, staff do walk with the children to nearby locations in town, such as the library. On the day of my visit, the children were participating in a book program at the local library.

This center has a core group of staff who have worked together for several years. Their experience and stability contribute to a positive, consistent environment for the children in their care. Staff demonstrate commitment to the children and maintain a warm, supportive atmosphere. The program spends a significant amount of time outdoors when weather permits, which provides children with valuable opportunities for physical activity, exploration, and social interaction.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is rated at IQ4K Level 4, which indicates it meets advanced quality standards in areas such as staff training, program leadership, learning environments, and family engagement. This rating reflects the center's strong commitment to providing a high-quality, developmentally appropriate program. A strong partnership with the local school provides several benefits for the children and the program. Consistent communication between the center and the school supports smoother transitions for children who attend both settings. Shared information helps staff better understand each child's academic and social needs. Access to school resources—such as bussing—also increases safety and reliability for families. Overall, this collaboration promotes continuity of care and enhances the child's overall learning experience.

A no-tablet policy benefits children by encouraging active play, movement, and hands-on learning rather than passive screen time. This approach supports healthier physical development, improves social interaction, and helps children build problem-solving, creativity, and communication skills. Limiting screen use also promotes better attention spans and supports overall school readiness.

Staff demonstrate strong interaction skills with the children, engaging with them in a positive, supportive, and developmentally appropriate manner. Classroom management is effective, and transitions between activities are handled smoothly, helping maintain a calm and organized learning environment.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.



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109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Ann her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

Ann and Carrie have worked together for nine years and have developed strong communication skills. They communicate effectively with one another, including when addressing frustrations, which contributes to a stable, collaborative, and supportive work environment.

A full license is recommended at this time.

Because of their experience working together, they are able to recognize non-verbal cues such as body language and can identify when one of them needs a break. This awareness supports effective teamwork and helps maintain a calm, well-managed environment for the children.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 06/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at <https://iowaccrr.org>.