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

Name of Center: Oak Academy **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27709

Street: 1401 Center ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50314 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1401 Center ST, Des Moines, IA, 50314

Director's Name: Bethany Davis **Phone Number:** 515-244-7702

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tonya Wells/Vicki Griffin **E-Mail:** BDavis@oakridgeneighborhood.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-25-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-08-2021

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

Date Inspected: 03-01-2022

Comments : This is completed by security in conjunction with the State Fire Marshall; due at least every three years.

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 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	16	16	134		166
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 5

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-01-2023

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 10-25-23. The Director, Bethany Davis, was present throughout the visit.

Oak Academy has been in operation since 1985. The center is located in the Oakridge Community Center. The center is managed by Oakridge Neighborhood Services. A second building is located at 979 Oakridge Drive. There is a secured entrance into the childcare buildings. Bethany Davis is the director, taking on this role after being the on-site supervisor. Bethany has been employed at the center since 2001. Bethany has a Masters degree in Education Leadership and a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. Tonya Wells is listed as the on-site supervisor. Tonya is teaching in a preschool classroom all day and rarely has time outside of teaching to conduct on-site supervisor responsibilities. Vicki Griffin was added as an assistant director/on-site supervisor in 2018. Vicki has been with the center for several years and meets qualifications to be the on-site supervisor. Vicki has taken on a strong administrative role and is very organized.

Hours are 6:30AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday with approximately 80 children currently enrolled.

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 Observation/Activities: This center uses Creative Curriculum and the Pro-Care/Playground now Application. Lesson plans were posted with a fall theme currently. Staff were in ratio. The center has well-stocked, variety of age/developmentally appropriate learning centers/activities/toys. The rooms are arranged nicely for staff to provide good supervision. There is ready access to restrooms; that were clean and had necessary toiletries. Discussion took place that deep cleaning/sanitizing was necessary for the changing tables; and day-to-day cleaning and sanitizing to continue cleaning, especially underneath the changing mats. The staff were observed to be attentive to the children and engaged in activities with the children. The children were observed to approach staff with needs/wants and for staff to respond in a nurturing manner.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff. Menus are posted and following CACFP guidelines with a 4-week rotation. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and served family-style in the rooms by staff; where staff remain with the children for snacks and lunch. The kitchen was clean and organized. Dry and refrigerated storage was clean and organized.

Health and safety: Medications are stored securely in each room or in a refrigerated locked box. Handwashing signs are posted and staff were modeling good handwashing techniques while redirecting the children. Each room has a first aid kit. Emergency fire/tornado plans were posted and drills documented to have been completed monthly. Radon testing is completed by the Oakridge Neighborhood Services and was last tested 12/29/22, with all readings below 4.0. There are carbon monoxide detectors in every room. Overall this center offers an organized and tidy environment.

Playground: The outdoor play areas are divided by ages; and enclosed with chain link fencing. There are trees with natural shade and shades. The play equipment is was in good repair and safety surfacing is artificial grass. The playground and equipment were in good condtion.

Transportaion and field trips: This center has multi-passenger van available that are maintained Oakridge Neighborhood Services. Some transportation is shared with the school.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, Fire/Tornado plans and non-smoking signs were all posted. Four child files were reviewed; with one missing dentist name/contact information. Another child file did have an immunization sheet not signed/dated. Three staff files were reviewed. One was in need of a repeat SING (Iowa Dependent Adult/Child Abuse and criminal check). This program has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has maintained their accreditation through NAEYC current through 4/2024.

The center also participates in QRS and they have a five star rating, based on a rating between one to five stars.

The center partners with child partner program and the Des Moines Public schools.

The center is also a part of United Way and receives support from United Way with a behavioral interventionist and mental health counselor; rehabilitation and screenings with Central Rehab LTD that provides services on site.

The center has a quarterly full newsletter sent out and the classrooms send out a weekly newsletter. They have an Oakridge Neighborhood Website as well as a Facebook page. The center has good communication with families.

They have staff meetings the 4th tuesday of every month.

There is longevity of staff, with the longest staff member working at this center for 30 years. There are also staff working at this center for twenty years, fifteen years and seven years.

The center provides transportation for preschool age children that otherwise would not have transportation to be able to attend preschool.

There is cultural diversity among staff and children.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center provides a need in the community.

The center participates in the Shared Visions program which adds a funding source for preschool age children.

The center does training for staff regularly.

The staff are knowledgeable and work on being a team.

The center partners with the Book Buddies program.

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.

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
SING (Iowa Dependent Adult/Child Abuse, criminal checks) must be repeated every two years or if there is a known concern of abuse or transgression.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 1

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.
Discussion took place that deep cleaning of the changing tables, including under the mats would be completed; and maintained. This resulted from finding that the tables had not been cleaned/sanitized properly which included underneath the mat. The director indicated awareness and was in the process of completing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the food program and their menus reflect they are following the food program guidelines.

This center is all electric with heat.

This center offers a large variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The staff were attentive and responsive to the children in their care, consistently throughout this center, including the Director.

*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.