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

Name of Center: Ankeny Christian Childcare **Enrollment:** 65 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27717

Street: 2506 SW 3rd ST **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2506 SW 3rd ST, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Courtney Hartkoph **Phone Number:** 515-964-3599

On-Site Supervisor(s): Madison Buttz **E-Mail:** ankenycc4@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-16-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-16-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-05-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. The Fire Marshall was out 3-5-24 and found items in need of correction; needs to provide updated inspection.

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA X Other 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	28	18	44	45	135
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-04-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 10-16-24; Courtney Hartkoph, director was present for the entire visit.
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Ankeny Christian Childcare is located in the Ankeny Christian Church. The wing where the daycare is located is never used by the church. There is no affiliation with the church, the center rents the space from the church. Tarah Widaman is the main owner of the program. Tarah bought the business in the summer of 2014 from the previous owner, Bryan Jansen. Courtney Hartkoph started as director June 2023. Courtney had previously been the center's assistant director from 2022 until 2023. Courtney has 4 prior years of experience in a childcare setting. The assistant director is Madison Buttz, who assumed the AD position 11/2023. Madison had previously worked as the On-Site Supervisor for center and has several years of prior childcare experience. Both meet qualifications for their position.

Hours of operation are 6:30 am-5:45 pm. They serve children from age six weeks up through 12 years old.

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 observations: This center is operating five classroom and uses the Creative Curriculum with Iowa Early Learning Standards. They are also a Christian based center and has a Christian component added to their daily schedule. The center uses Playground Application to communicate with parents. Staff were in ratio. Staff were attentive and involved with the children when observed. The rooms had nicely arranged centers and a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities. . Staff maintained good structure in the rooms and children appeared content. There were handwashing posters.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff preparing meals. Menus were reviewed and were in line with CACFP guidelines and rotate every four weeks. Snacks and Lunches are served family-style in the classrooms. The kitchen was clean and organized.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securely in the directors office; emergency medications are stored securely with the action plans in the first aid kits in the classrooms.. Each room had a first aide kit easily accessible. Handwashing signs were posted. Used for sanitation are soapy water and sanitizing solution; which are stored appropriately out of reach for children.. Fire and Tornado plans were posted and drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon was last tested in 2021 and fell below the safe 4.0 cutoff. The heating and cooling maintenance is as arranged/completed by the church that owns the building. The center plans to obtain carbon monoxide detectors.

Playground: Playground checks were documented to have been completed. There are play structures for different ages. The playground is divided by ages and is enclosed by chain link fencing. Safety surfacing is wood chips. There were a variety wooden play apparatus meant to help develop large motor skills/balance.

Transportation: Transportation is provided before and after school; the center has 12 passenger, 15 passenger buses and a

minivan--maintained by professionals. There are field trips in the summer months.

Administrative Review: Information regarding mandatory reporting; handbook availability; consultant contact and license were posted as required. Tornado and Fire emergency plans are posted throughout the center. Non-smoking signs were posted on the entry door. Five child files were reviewed with one file missing an updated physical form. Five staff files were reviewed; two needing updated SING (Iowa) Checks; One staff needing an updated CPR'/1st Aid Certificate; one staff needing to provide a physical form.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director and staff worked over the year to attain Level I in the IQ4K quality rating system.

The management team is supportive of staff and invest in their staff.

Part-time care is available.

The center has a secure entrance.

The director is organized and is invested in the center and in providing quality care along with working well with administrative team members.

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(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 2

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: 2

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 3

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The last testing was completed in June of 2022 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

Staff were observed to be responsive and nurturing while maintaining structure in the rooms.

Discussion took place with the director regarding the need to remove all push-pins from the center as this presents an extreme safety/choking hazard and there were several posters utilizing push pins.

*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.