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

Name of Center: Ankeny Lil' Tots Daycare & Preschool LLC **Enrollment:** 188 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43390

Street: 732 SE Shurfine DR **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 732 SE Shurfine DR, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Erica Pierce/Keyara Adams **Phone Number:** 515-965-6754

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** epankenyliltots@hotmail.com Keyara.ankenyliltots@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-10-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-12-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-06-2024

Comments : Completed by Ankeny FD/Tyson Hood; recommendations for improvements/ Per Ankeny FD a follow up visit will take place on/about 6/3/24.

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 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	57	32	84	45	218
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-20-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing was completed 6-10-25; Both directors were present throughout the visit.

This center opened in June 2014. Karrie Bodecker is the owner of this center. She was a registered in-home provider for 19 years prior to opening this center. There are two directors; Keyara Adams who has worked in child care since 2010 and the director is Erica Pierce. She has an associate degree in Early Childhood, and has worked in the field since 2010. Erica and Keyara meet the requirements for their positions.

This center is doing business as Ankeny Lil Tots Learning Academy; the LLC will remain Ankeny Lil' Tots Daycare and Preschool, and ownership remains the same.

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.

This center has 12 classrooms. They also have a 2500 square foot indoor large motor play area located at the front of the center. In addition, they have another indoor/outdoor playground area at the back of the center that is 3000 square foot in size. There is a large play area inside the center, and when the garage door is opened, the children can also play outdoors.

The center provides care to infants up through school age children, starting in June of 2023 they will only go up to 2nd grade for school age care. The center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Room observations/Activities: The center has developed their own curriculum by pulling from Iowa Early Learning Standards. The center has researched Handwriting without Tears as well as the Creative curriculum. The center also communicates with the Ankeny school district about their assessments regarding readiness for kindergarten and incorporates this into their curriculum. Ankeny Lil tots uses Tadpoles as an application to communicate with parents. The classrooms were observed today with children that were content. Staff are in ratio and actively engaged in supervising children or helping to meet their individual needs. Staff maintained good structure while providing nurturing responses. The classrooms are organized nicely and offer a variety of toys and play centers. The center has completed some improvements and updates to the classrooms such as fresh paint, flooring along with new bathroom facilities that were behind a pony wall (half-wall) that provided privacy for the user but also afforded the staff to continue to closely supervise the children.

Nutrition Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff. The center is enrolled in the food program and menus appear in-line with CACFP as required. The menus are crafted by the directors and rotated each month. The kitchen was nicely organized and clean with menu's posted. Meals are served family-style in the classrooms. Foods were observed to be stored properly and to be fresh, including the milk supplies.

Health/Safety: Medication is kept secure; administered by directors or on-site supervisors; rescue or emergency medications are kept in the classrooms, secured in fanny packs. Handwashing posters are hung; and first aid kits were

observed in the rooms. Tornado and Fire diagrams were in each classroom, and kitchen. Fire/Tornado drills are documented completed monthly. Radon was tested in March 2024 and all under 4.0. The center had a new air conditioning unit installed in May of 2024 and a yearly inspection of the heating and cooling systems was completed 5-5-25. There is an interior window that is cracked, and the cracking appears to be increasing. The directors indicated they are in the process of replacing this window. The window, while out of reach of most younger children, if it should shatter, glass shards would fall upon a hallway that is used by children and parents, presenting a danger.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented as complete. The playground is enclosed with chain link and has shade on the play structures. Surfacing is cement and artificial turf. The playground appears in good repair. The center was having a water day; which was just outside the playground chain link enclosure but located in the back of the center's parking lot, with staff placed strategically to ensure the children remained in a safe play area.

Transportation: The center has multi-passenger vans that are professionally maintained.

Administrative Review: Fliers regarding mandatory reporter; consultant contact; handbook accessibility; consultant contact and license were posted. Tornado and Fire plans were posted with the exception of one, which had not been rehung since staff redecorated the room. When staff was asked what the emergency evacuation plan was; staff was correctly able to recount the plans. Non-smoking signs were posted. Seven staff files were reviewed; one missing a certification for CPR/First Aid completion; two staff physicals that either had been performed more then six months prior to hire date or after starting employment and 3 staff missing documentation that annual training had been completed. Seven child files were reviewed; with one missing an annual review/update.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There are many long term staff at the center. The directors work well together.

The staff work well together and care about the children. Staff communicate well with parents. The center uses the Tadpole application to communicate with parents.

The center has a family atmosphere and is responsive to parents.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance. There is always someone up front to greet parents.

The Directors are almost always at the center and assist in the classrooms if necessary.

The center installed cameras in every classroom and the playground, as well as the parking lot.

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

109.7(2) Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Number not in compliance 3

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: 2
*Two staff physicals on file were either completed more than six months prior to date of hire or completed after hire. Physicals are required to have been performed within six months PRIOR to hire.

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: 1

109.9(2) All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child file was in need of an annual update.

109.11(3)a Center shall ensure that:
1. Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
2109.7(2) Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

Number not in compliance 3

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: 2

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: 1

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

109.11(3)a Center shall ensure that:
1. Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
2. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
3. Sufficient space provided for dining.
4. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.
5. Sufficient ventilation.
6. Sufficient heating.
7. sufficient cooling.
8. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities.
9. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children.
10. 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.

An interior window was observed to have a small chip and crack; where the cracking had spread through a larger area on the window which presents an extreme danger should the window shatter. The directors indicated they were working to replace the window (no documentation had been received as of the submission of this report).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now required every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The center last completed radon testing in March of 2024 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected annually; 5-5-25.

The staff were observed to work as a team to maintain structure in the rooms, where there were children content with activities. The directors work well as a team also.

*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.