Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Ankeny

Provider No.: 28339

Address: 225 E 1st St, Ankeny, IA, 50021

County: Polk

Director's Name: Kristi Parsons

On-Site Supervisor: Amie Littlefield

Phone Number: 5159647372

E-Mail: director.ankeny@cadence-academy.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/20/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/25/2026

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years; Completed by Tyson Hood-Fire Inspector, Lieutenant of Community Risk Reduction, Ankeny Fire Dept.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	24	24	62		110
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was conducted 10-20-26 and Assistant Director Amie Littlefield was present through the visit. Kristi Parsons, Director was present for a time also.

This center is part of the Cadence organization, which has various centers located within the metro area. Jennifer Villegas is the Regional Director for this site. The center director is Kristi Parsons who has been with this center since 1998. The assistant director is Amie Littlefield, who began in this role officially in May of 2022.. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

Hours of operation are 7:00 am till 5:30 pm. They serve children ages six weeks up through age five. They do not provide school age care.

Cadence Academy Preschool uses the Ascend program for curriculum which is set by corporate for all Cadence Centers. Corporate also sends out monthly themes and materials that teachers are able to choose and integrate in the classrooms. Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with parents and that parents can view for daily progress. The children were observed to be content--outside playing or coming in from outside. Teachers were engaged in either leading group activities or attending to an individual's need. The classrooms are clean and nicely organized with a variety of learning centers and toys.

This center offers morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The meals and snacks are in line with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating; and crafted by corporate and seasonally set by the center. The children eat family-style in their classrooms. The meals and snacks are prepared on-site and fresh daily.

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Cadence Acad Preschool offers an outdoor area for large motor play that is enclosed and sectioned for ages. This playground has rubber (tire) chips for safety surfacing, pour in play surfacing and cement. The rubber tire chips are located on the older children's play area that is meant to serve as safety surfacing for a medium-sized play structure. This area abuts the infant play area, that is enclosed however shares a chain link fence that allows the rubber tire chips to come into the infant play area. During this visit, I observed staff closely supervising the infants and taking the rubber chips away from the infants several times. There was an instance that staff turned to assist another infant when a child placed a rubber chip in their mouth. I did then bring this to staff's attention. This is NOT to reprimand staff, rather the current safety surfacing and separation of the ages/playgrounds in insufficient to keep everyone safe. An acceptable update would be to improve the barrier between the infants and older children where rubber chips are used or to remove and replace all the safety surfacing. It should be noted a contractor was present at the center to assess and provide a bid to replace/repair this area when this visit took place.

Transportation/Field Trips: no transportation is provided at this time.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has attained Level 4 in IQ4K. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on

The center has had supported teachers participating in Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa.

The center has also supported Teachers participating in TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

The center has a very strong relationship with the families they serve. Families consistently give this center high reviews on a survey that is given by their parent company.

Cadence Acad--Ankeny offers several long-term staff including the director and assistant director. The staff are engaged with the children and work well as a team. Many staff have college education including staff with Bachelor's, associates and CDA certificates. Staff meet monthly and this year all staff have completed PBIS training((Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training provides educators with the skills to implement a school-wide framework for improving student behavior and well-being).

The center has a Facebook page and a website and has recently gone to an App for daily contacts which the parents and teachers like.

The center has a secure entrance and video surveillance.

Cadence academy now offers to provide diapers and wipes for an additional nominal weekly fee.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must:Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water.Include safe play equipment and an area of shade.Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
--A staff hard file and electronic file was reviewed to be absent annual training hours
--The director will ensure staff has access to and completes annual trainings to meet licensing requirements

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--The center director has been in contact with the corporate offices and is collecting bids to repair/replace necessary items on the playground
--The direct will inform licensing when the repairs/replacement has been completed.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license in recommended with the caveat that the center is in the process of updating the outdoor play area to be safe for all users.

Radon testing was completed Sept 25-30, 2026 and all levels were under 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter of air).

The most recent HVAC inspection was completed 8/2026 by Lennox.

Date: 10/29/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.