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

Name of Center: Cadence Academy Preschool - Grand **Enrollment:** 91 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26701

Street: 1809 Grand Ave **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 8800 N Gainey Center Dr Ste300Attn: Accounts Receivable, Scottsdale, AZ, 85258

Director's Name: Erica Austin **Phone Number:** 515-327-2087

On-Site Supervisor(s): Madison Whisney **E-Mail:** Director.Grand@Cadence-Academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-24-2023

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:** 03-17-2022

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

Date Inspected: 07-26-2022

Comments :

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 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	22	18	78		118
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 04-21-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 3/24/23 The director and assistant director were present during the visit.

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 was a part of the Apple Tree organization which has centers located throughout the metro area. In December 2013 these centers were bought by Phoenix Children's Academy, which was then renamed to Cadence Education Inc. Cadence Education is nationwide and has approximately 250 centers in at least 30 states.

Each center has a director that meets the 100 points required for that position, and an assistant director that meets the 75 points required for that position. Erica Austin is now the director, beginning in this role in 2021. Erica was the assistant director prior to becoming the director. Erica has an Associates degree in Early Childhood and has several years experience in a childcare setting. Madison Whisney is the assistant director, beginning in this role in 2021 at this center. Madison has been an assistant director with this corporation since 2018, she was previously at another location. Madison has a Bachelor's degree in Event Management and several year experience in childcare. Both meet qualifications for their roles.

The hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. They offer care for children from infants up to age five. They do not provide care to school age children. However, during the summer months they may have a few school age children who attend if they have a younger sibling who is already enrolled in the center.

This center has five classrooms used for child care and one classroom that is used for the universal pre-k program that is offered in conjunction with the West Des Moines school district. Cadence has their own preschool program as well and they use the creative curriculum with gold assessment.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a QRS rating of 4 stars, based on a rating scale of 1-5 stars.

This center has their NAEYC accreditation. Only a small percentage of child care centers in the nation meet the high standards of this nationally recognized program. This center has had their NAEYC accreditation for over fifteen years.

This center provides a consistent, well rounded child care program to the families in the community.

The center offers parent-teacher conferences for all ages of children twice a year.

The center has strong communication with families and works hard to develop good relationships with the families.

The center completes a transition packet when a child moves from one room to another room and the center uses the primary care giving system which allows the children to have one main staff as their primary care giver in the classroom.

There is staff longevity at this center, including staff who have worked at the center for 20 years. There are 10 staff who have been at the center for over 10 years.

The director and on-site supervisor work well together and provide strong leadership.

The staff are educated, professional and work well together. Every lead teacher has a Bachelor's degree, Associates degree or a CDA. four of the lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree in Early childhood education, one has an Associate's degree and one has their CDA. The staff view this as a career, not just a job.

The center has put together resource kits for parents to take home to give ideas and help with a variety of behaviors and transition periods for children.

The center uses the Kids Report App for daily notes, communication and pictures, which assists in parent communication.

The center receives strong support from the Cadence corporation.

The center conducts parent surveys twice a year and receives a high rating on these surveys.

The corporation gave staff retention bonuses, this was on top of the retention bonus received through DHS. Staff have also received merit increases.

The center has new fencing on the outdoor playground area.

The center holds family events, they had a science fair in January and a parent's night out in February. They will have a week of the young child event in April, with a musician coming out and a magician, they are making a school cook book and doing a charity drive.

The center administration team takes steps to let staff know they are valued and appreciated. The center will have a teacher appreciation week in May. They celebrate staff birthdays and bring in breakfast for staff every few weeks.

The center put in new countertops and cupboards in three classrooms.

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

109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents.

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
One staff file reviewed did not contain a pre-employment physical exam report.

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
Information lacking: Two child files reviewed did not contain information regarding a preferred dentist.

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: 1

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Fire drills did not take place in November or December of 2022. Tornado drills did not take place in the months of October, November or December of 2022.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if the testing shows results under the 4.0 cutoff. The center last conducted radon testing in December of 2021 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The staff file missing a physical exam report will have a physical scheduled within the month.

The center had their walls painted in the entry way and a mandatory reporting poster was not posted after this. A mandatory reporting poster was emailed to the director.

Discussion took place regarding the sink and countertop in the two year old classroom having some peeling and warping. The hope is to have this sink and countertop and cupboards replaced.

*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.