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

Name of Center: Ankeny Christian Childcare **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27717

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

Mailing Address: 3202 NW 84th AVE , Ankeny, IA, 50023

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

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

Date(s) of Visit: 11-21-2023

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:** 11-16-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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:** 11-30-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed on 11-21-23. Madison Betts, Assistant Director was present in the beginning of the visit and the director Courtney Hartkoph was present at the end of the 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 Betts, 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 6:15 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 ProCare 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. Discussion did take place with regard to diligent and thorough cleaning of the changing tables to include underneath the changing mats. Staff maintained good structure in the rooms and children appeared content. There were handwashing posters and staff did a good job of role modeling good handwashing.

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 had well-organized storage areas.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securing 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. Discussion took place with regard to the need for the refrigerators in the classrooms to be wiped down and kept clean. 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. The shade structure was put away for the winter.

Safety surfacing is wood chips. The center had ordered additional wood chips but due to season/availability has not had those delivered. The director mentioned that the center is planning to replace the playground area and safety surfacing in the Spring 2024.The play structures appear in good repair.

Transportation: Transportation is provided before and after school; the center has 13 passenger vans which are professionally maintained. 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 noted to have missing emergency information/name for doctor, dentist and hospital preference along with missing emergency contacts. Two employee files were reviewed and contained all the required information. This center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director is working with their CCR&R consultant on applying for another rating through the new IQ4K system.

The staff are invested in the center and providing quality care to the children. There are many long term staff at this center.

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

The center has a Facebook page for all the classes and a website.

Part-time care is available.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has regular staff meetings.

The new director is organized and is invested in the center and in providing quality care.

The administrative team work well together.

The center is teaming and partnering more with the church and with the church Pastor.

The staff are caring and invested, they are eager and want to gain more knowledge and training.

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

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 medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 1

Emergency medical and dental name and contact information is required.

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.
Changing tables were in need of thorough cleaning, including under the changing mat.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last testing was completed in June of 2022 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The director indicated intention of replacing the playground in spring of 2024.

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

*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.