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

Name of Center: The Tree House Growing & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 90 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26390

Street: 2401 West 1st St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2401 W 1St St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Missey Michel/Mindy Seeman **Phone Number:** 515-965-5505

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashly Schmidt **E-Mail:** ashly@treehouseglc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-24-2024

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:** 03-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-03-2023

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X 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	24	12	58	0	94
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-05-2024

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 4-24-24. The assistant Director, Ashly Schmidt was present throughout the visit.

This center is located on the west side of Ankeny. Since 2008 this center has been owned by two sisters, Mindy Seeman and Missey Michel. They are qualified to be directors. They both have an Elementary Ed degree and both taught elementary school until buying this center. In 2014 they opened a school age only center, and in 2016 opened another child care center on the northeast side of Ankeny. In the fall of 2018 they opened another school age program on the north side of Ankeny.

Due to having four centers, each center has an on-site supervisor who is director qualified. Ashly Schmidt is the Assistant Director for this center. Ashly has worked in the field of child care since 2006 and became the assistant director in 2015.

This center provides care for infants and children up to the age of 5. Hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. There are five enclosed classrooms.

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/activities: Staff are in ratio; and observed to maintain good structure in the rooms with nurturing responses. This center pulls curriculum from Iowa Early Learning Standards and the Tadpole application to communicate with parents. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys in the classrooms which were clean and nicely organized. Handwashing posters were hung and there is ready access to toileting facilities.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff. The Assistant Director crafts the menus that appear in line with CACFP guidelines and rotate by season. The menus are posted in the kitchen, which was observed to clean and organized.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored secured in the classrooms, accessible only to staff. Handwashing signs were posted throughout the center as required. There is a main first aid kit located in the office and mini-kits in fanny-packs that are taken outside or along with the children. Tornado/Fire emergency plans/diagrams were posted and drills were documented completed monthly. Radon was tested in 2022, results under 4.0 and due again in 2027. HVAC has several new units that are just now 2 years old; they are on a seasonal schedule of professional inspection/maintenance. There is a carbon monoxide detector on site.

Playground: This playground is enclosed with wrought iron fencing; there is shade available from play structures. There is a combination of wood chips and pour in place safety surfacing. The playground and structures appear in good repair. Playground safety checks had been completed.

Transportation/Field Trips: The center has seven multi-passenger vehicles that are maintained professionally.

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporter; consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted. Five child files were reviewed and one was missing emergency contact information for medical doctor; Five employee files were reviewed with one expired FBI (National) background check. Discussion took place with regard to needing a physical within in six months PRIOR to start of employment.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The staff are very dedicated; they want to teach the children the daily skills they need to succeed. The staff are a very close group and work well together. They are dependable and flexible, and go above and beyond what is expected.

The staff communicate well with the families; with tadpoles and other means when necessary.

The center is family oriented and has a family atmosphere.

The curriculum is well rounded and the children are ready for kindergarten.

The center sends out newsletters every month, both a center wide newsletter and a classroom newsletter.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has a Facebook page as well as a website.

The center offers parents part time hours to accommodate working schedules.

With more than one center, the directors/owners ensure that all the centers follow the same expectations and guidelines.

The center is well maintained and clean.

The center has good early intervention with children who are experiencing delays.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-National back ground checks are due every 4 years or if a change has occurred.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last radon testing was completed in March of 2023. All rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

This center is clean and nicely organized with staff that invest time into the quality of lesson plans and activities.

*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.