Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Guardian Angel Preschool and Daycare

Provider No.: 52742

Address: 1391 1st Street SE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Sadie Kneip

On-Site Supervisor: Lisa Freking

Phone Number: 7125468732

E-Mail: sadiekneip@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/12/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/09/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	16	46	21	91
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On January 12, 2026, this worker completed an unannounced licensing visit at Guardian Angel Preschool and Daycare. During the visit, I met with the owner and director, Sadie Freking-Kneip. Sadie holds a degree in Early Childhood Education and has several years of experience in the field. Lisa Freking, who previously served as the director, is now the onsite supervisor for the program. Ms. Freking has an associate's degree in early childhood and brings over 40 years of experience working with children.

Guardian Angel Preschool and Daycare operate in a building constructed specifically for daycare purposes. The facility includes two large rooms on the main floor and two large rooms on the lower level, with a kitchen on each floor that is not accessible to children. The program provides care for children ages 18 months through 10 years and currently has 102 children enrolled. At the time of the visit, 54 children were present. The center offers preschool programming as part of the universal preschool program. One classroom serves 4- and 5-year-olds with morning and afternoon sessions, while another classroom on the lower level provides morning preschool for 3½-year-olds. The childcare program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Universal preschool runs on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Preschool for 3½-year-olds is held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

The center uses Creative Curriculum and GOLD Assessment, along with High Scope strategies, to guide instruction. The goal of the program is to create a positive and happy foundation for early learning. Classroom environments are well-equipped and organized into learning areas such as kitchen, music, blocks, farm, computer, science, writing, games, Legos, art, dress-up, and library. Displays throughout the rooms include colors, shapes, numbers, the alphabet, maps, sign language charts, anatomy charts, skeleton charts, job charts, picture schedules, and children's artwork. During the visit, staff were

observed engaging children in activities, reinforcing rules, and promoting positive interactions.

The program maintains good health and safety practices. Toys are cleaned daily, tables are sanitized before meals, and staff and children were observed following proper handwashing procedures. Medication is stored in a locked box out of children's reach; however, medication information needs to be updated. The center will work with the nurse consultant to ensure proper forms and procedures are in place. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. A radon test has been completed, and results were within normal range; a mitigation system is installed. All utilities are electric. Meals are prepared onsite, menus are posted, and the center follows CACFP nutrition guidelines, although they are not currently on the food program. The refrigerator was clean and maintained at the appropriate temperature.

The outdoor environment includes two large fenced-in playgrounds. One playground features slides, climbing equipment, swings, a trike area, and a playhouse, with rubber mulch surfacing around equipment. The second playground is a large grassy area with shade structures and an umbrella for additional shade. Monthly playground inspections are completed. Some cement areas on the playground are cracked and uneven; the program plans to address these issues and expand the cement area by spring. The center does not transport children; Siouxland Regional Transit is used for field trips.
The program demonstrates several strengths, including reliable and flexible staff who maintain positive relationships with children and families. The environment is clean, well-maintained, and equipped with an abundance of toys and learning materials. The center's goals include achieving IQ4K Level 1, ensuring a smooth leadership transition to Sadie Freking-Kneip, and continuing to enhance the outdoor play area.

They currently have scheduled in the spring for new cement to laid in the playground area. The program utilizes the Program uses the Childcare Playground App to communicate with parents.

The center is going to pursue IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The staff are highly engaged and hands-on, actively connecting with children at their level in a caring and supportive manner. I observed staff gently and effectively redirecting children to follow rules, creating a positive and respectful environment. They participated enthusiastically in all activities, including singing, playing, and encouraging exploration, fostering a joyful and inclusive atmosphere for learning.

The center is exceptionally clean, well-organized, and thoughtfully designed to be child-friendly, creating a welcoming and safe environment where children can learn and thrive

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Continue to work with CCRR for support.

Center needs to email consultant by 03/01/26 confirming that those aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 01/13/2026

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.