Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Primrose School of Ankeny at Prairie Trail

Provider No.: 53150

Address: 2620 SW Vintage Pkwy, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Lacy Horn

On-Site Supervisor: Jamie Schaper/Lynn Douglass

Phone Number: 5154123956

E-Mail: btonniges@primrosewildernesshills.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/14/2026

Licensing Period: 04/20/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/26/2026

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Ankeny Fire Dept--Lt. Tyson Hood

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation

Comments: Cognia Accredited: education quality for early learning to high school.

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 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	28	31	112	30	201
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed on 5/14/26. Director Lacy Horn and part owner Megan Sifert were present through the visit.

Primrose School of Ankeny At Prairie Trail was recently acquired by Betsy Tonniges and Megan Sifert and given permission to open without license on 4/20/26. Primrose School is a National brand, however each center is a franchise and independently owned. Primrose School has centers in 32 states. Betsy Tonniges is the majority owner and has years of experience in education and is the owner for other Primrose Schools in Nebraska. Megan Sifert identified herself "minority owner". Megan has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and several years experience in a childcare setting. Lacy Horn is the director. Lacy has trainings, education and previous child care experience.

The hours of operation are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Room observations/activities: The Primrose school corporation has an Early Learning Council and an Education Team. The curriculum is based on a Balanced Learning concept, which balances purposeful play with nurturing guidance to encourage curiosity, creativity, confidence and compassion and available for each age range. Children were content and staff were actively engaged in leading a group or meeting each individuals needs.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen where the meals and snacks are prepared. The center offers breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The children eat family-style in their classrooms.

Playground: This Primrose school has a spacious outdoor playground area that is enclosed for safety. The playground is

sectioned for different age groups of children and has a garden area.

Transportation: Primrose School of Ankeny offers before and after school transportation to/from the center with Ankeny Schools. The center also offers field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Since the center has been newly acquired, they are working toward IQ4K certification (Iowa's quality assurance).

The center/school sets a high standard for their staff, including lead teachers either having a degree or working toward a degree.

Primrose offers a free CDA program and is continues to be involved in the TEACH program. There are staff are working toward a CDA through the two programs and staff working toward a Bachelor's degree and toward an Associate's degree under the TEACH program.

This center also participates in the Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual's level of formal education and commitment to their program.

The center has a secure entrance and has exterior electronic monitoring.

The center has their COGNIA accreditation, which is similar to NAEYC.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

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

109.9(2)i--child file has report of physical exam (valid)
-one child file indicated a physical had expired
-The director would seek out the family to get records current

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended.

Radon was completed in 2022 with results under 4.0 and is now required in 2027.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
There was discussion with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. This center offers trainings for staff such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Services, staff are encouraged to seek out assistance from team members and administrative staff as well.

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Date: 05/22/2026

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**.