Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Shooting Star Childcare

Provider No.: 52155

Address: 403 N Grant AVE, Elkhart, IA, 50073

County: Polk

Director's Name: Brittany

On-Site Supervisor: TBD

Phone Number: 5153670027

E-Mail: brittany@shootingstarchildcareia.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/30/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/09/2026

Comments: Fire inspections are required at least every three years. The fire inspection on 4/9/26 was completed by Seth Jones, Fire Code Inspector, Iowa Dept of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL).

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	6:30 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	24	48	48	30	150
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 6/30/26. The owner, Mandy Torres and Interim Director Clara Dee were present.

Shooting Star Childcare obtained permission to open 5/8/23. They provide traditional childcare along with before/after school care Monday through Friday 6:30 AM until 6:00 PM. The center is owned by Shane and Mandy Torres. The building (which is solely occupied by the center) is new construction, specifically built to accommodate the needs of a child care center. Brittany Robertson assumed the director role in 6/2025; she has prior director experience and several years of child care experience. Brittany meets the criteria for director. The assistant director that is temporarily assisting in the director role is Clara Dee.

All areas of the program were observed to include observations of rooms/activities, nutritional practices, health and safety, playground, transportation and administrative record review.

Room observations/activities: The center pulls lesson information from Iowa Early Learning standards and emphasizes learning through play. The rooms are nicely organized and have a variety of toys and play centers. The children were content in their classrooms, some resting and the infants were having a bottle or change of diaper during this visit. Staff maintained good structure in the rooms and responded in consistently nurturing manner with the children.

Nutrition practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and currently has a dedicated kitchen staff. The center provides AM/PM Snack and lunch. There is five week menu rotation that is in-line with CACFP guidelines. This menu is posted on the parent application. Postings of allergies of some children are in the kitchen and emergency steps in needed in case of

reaction. The kitchen was clean, had posted temperatures and was nicely organized.

Center Playground: This center has a playground area that is encompassed with chain link fencing, and is divided by ages with a variety of new outdoor structures, including water play. The safety surface below the structures is pour and play surfacing. There is green space and ample shade. The playground contains an area on the southeast corner that is fenced off for safety, for when the center regrades the area.

Transportation/field trips: The center has access to passenger van that is maintained professionally. Before/After School transportation is provided by the local school.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center is located in a relatively rural area and provides needed resources to this community.

The center director and owner work well as a team to ensure the safety of the children attending.

This center has a secure entrance and video monitoring.

This center has a multi-purpose room that enhances opportunities for different activities/large motor play at the center when there is inclement weather.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions.Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.

109.9(2)d: 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.

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

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment)--
-Staff files were reviewed with a staff person missing a completion certificate for universal precautions. (both hard copy and electronic files were reviewed)
-Owner/Director will ensure the staff identified completes universal precautions as soon as possible.
-The staff or director should place the completion certificate in the hard file or ensure record is in the electronic file (Ipower)

109.9(2)d: 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.
-Child files reviewed were missing emergency dental information
-The owner and director will review child files and ensure emergency dental contact information is provided.

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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.
--Child files reviewed were missing valid physical exam forms
-The owner would be in contact with the families to provide valid physical exam forms.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed 11/7/24 with all levels testing below 4.0 safety guidelines.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The center owner discussed increasing trainings offered to teachers based on additional behavior management techniques. Teachers are able to work as a team or access the director/owner or assistant director for assistance with classroom behavior management. The center has been open to utilizing resources from AEA or Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

Date: 07/07/2026

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**.