Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Hope Ankeny Preschool

Provider No.: 51165

Address: 520 NW 36th St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Stephanie Mason

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5159645586

E-Mail: jody.hufford@hopewdm.org, stephanie.mason@hopeankeny.org

HHS Visit Date: 01/21/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/14/2026

Comments: Ankeny Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years for licensing requirements. Ankeny typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday			
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	12	66	0	78
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 1/21/26. The director of the program, Stephanie Mason, was present throughout this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Hope Ankeny Preschool is a program located within the Hope Ankeny Church. The center was given permission to open on 9/8/20. The center serves children ages two through five years in age using their own learning curriculum that incorporates several other learning curriculums. There are a total of six classrooms and all classrooms have a capacity of 12 children with the exception of the full-day classroom (TK room) which is capped at a capacity of 18 children . Preschool hours are Monday through Thursday. There are AM classes and PM classes available (9:00am - 11:30am and 12:30pm - 3:00pm) and one full-day class available for transitional kindergarten and Pre-K Extended. The center is only open during the school year.

All of the Hope programs are overseen by a Board. All of these programs also have a Hope Preschool Head Director, Jody Hufford, who oversees the daily operations of all of the Hope preschool programs. The director of this specific program is Stephanie Mason. Stephanie has a BA degree and also has past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were observed playing in the large, open-gym area. Staff were spaced out supervising and interacting with children. In another classroom, a calendar-group activity was observed. A staff member was facilitating a

large group on the theme "transportation" and discussing the different modes of transportation (car, bus, plane, train). The other staff member in this classroom was observed cleaning and sanitizing tables. Children were also observed eating the AM snack in one room and engaged in free-choice play in other remaining rooms. Children gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for fire and tornado drills. Children discussed appropriate times when they wash their hands while at the center.

NUTRITION: When it is a child's turn for snack, they bring in enough for the whole class. A list of what is CACFP credible is sent home with the child the night before it is their turn. For the Transitional Kindergarten class and Extended Preschool class, children/families are responsible for providing their own lunches that also have to meet CACFP standards.

PLAYGROUND: The center has a large, outdoor, grassy area they use.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not transport children. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment remains steady.

The center has as lot of support from the church.

All Hope programs share the same handbooks, same curriculums, trainings, etc.

There are quarterly staff meetings held at this location as well as monthly meetings between all of the directors of the different Hope programs.

The director is organized and has past experience working in child care.

The center again looked and smelled clean.

The director believes she has a good staff who all work well with each other. There are many tenured staff who work at this program.

The director believes the center has a good working relationship with the parents/children they serve.

The center is using the Brightwheel app .

There is a large, indoor gym area when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There was a dangling cord in the two year old classroom that needs to be more securely fastened to the wall and/or tucked behind other equipment/shelving.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The carbon monoxide detectors are built into the building.

Radon testing was last tested 8/22/22 - 8/25/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain

below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The center is all electric and geo-thermal with the exception of one fuel burning appliance (stove).

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. Some staff still need to be uploading all training into their I - Power profiles.

Date: 01/21/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.