Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Shining Stars Child Development Center

Provider No.: 26685

Address: 1250 NE 56th St, Pleasant Hill, IA, 50327

County: Polk

Director's Name: Jana Lewis

On-Site Supervisor: Dianna Marquardt, Gretchen Harris

Phone Number: 5155640507

E-Mail: diannamarquardt@aol.com shiningstarscdc1@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/31/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/07/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] 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	32	48	90	120	290
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Shining Stars Child Development Center has been in operation since January 2000. The center is located within a single standing building that has a secured entrance. The center has a security camera system in place that allows all the classrooms and the outdoor areas to be viewed on monitors. This center provides child care services for infants through school age children. Dianna Marquardt is the owner. Jana Lewis is the director of the center. Jana has been employed at the center since 2000. Gretchen Lewis is an on site supervisor. She has been in this role since October 2020.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. The center has pictures of staff posted at the entrance. Classrooms schedules and lesson plans are posted by individual classroom doorways. Classrooms are supplied with age appropriate furnishings, supplies and toys. The PreK classroom had a loft, which has been removed. Classrooms with older children have labeled interest centers. Gretchen Harris, who has an Early Education bachelors degree, does the lesson plans for classrooms with children ages one and older.

Jana assisted with today's visit. The center has eleven classrooms. There are four infant classrooms, Infant A, Infant B, Walker A and Walker B. There are two classrooms for primarily two year olds, 2A and 2B. There are two classrooms for primarily three year old children, 3A and 3B. There are two classrooms for primarily four year old children, 4A and 4B. There is one preschool classroom, which is a room for four and five year old children. There is one classroom for school age children. There were nine classrooms in operation today. All classrooms were at or above ratio requirements.

Children were observed in classrooms and on the playground. Children were observed during snack time. Some children were observed during rest time and during some transition times. Children were observed during individual and small group

play and learning activities. Staff were observed to be engaged with the children, providing support and guidance, during the visit.

The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The center has a full kitchen. The center employs a cook. The center participates in the federal food program. Menus are on a four week rotation. Menus reviewed show compliance with CACFP requirements. Today's afternoon snack was graham crackers and orange juice.

The center has a few playgrounds that are designated for different age groups. The playgrounds have fencing. Turf is the surfacing material in place. There are shading structures in place during warm months. The center completed monthly playground checks.

The center owns several vehicles. The center provides school transportation to some schools and uses vehicles for off site field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center participates in IQ4K and has a four star rating. Jana does a really good job maintaining a large amount of staff and children's files in addition to the other administrative records. The center uses the Bright Wheel application for communication with parents/guardians. Dianna and Jana have worked together since this center opened. The center benefits from administrations' experience. Dianna and Jana have the "Aim For Excellence" certification. There are several staff that have been employed with Shining Stars for many years. Management tries to provide positive incentives for staff to maintain employment with Shining Stars.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

Date: 04/21/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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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**.