Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Ankeny Christian Childcare

Provider No.: 27717

Address: 2506 SW 3rd ST, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Courtney Hartkoph

On-Site Supervisor: Madison Buttz

Phone Number: 5159643599

E-Mail: ankenycc4@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/21/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/03/2025

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

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 5:45 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:45 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:45 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:45 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:45 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	18	44	45	135
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was completed 10-21-25; Courtney Hartkoph, director was present for the entire visit.
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Ankeny Christian Childcare is located in the Ankeny Christian Church. The wing where the daycare is not used by church parishioners, with the exception of the large motor play/gym. There is no affiliation with the church, the center rents the space from the church. Tarah Widaman is the main owner of the program. Tarah bought the business in the summer of 2014. Courtney Hartkoph started as director June 2023. Courtney had previously been the center's assistant director from 2022 until 2023. Courtney has 4 prior years of experience in a childcare setting. The assistant director is Madison Buttz, who assumed the AD position 11/2023. Madison had previously worked as the On-Site Supervisor for center and has several years of prior childcare experience. Both meet qualifications for their position.

Hours of operation are 6:30 am-5:45 pm. They serve children from age six weeks up through 12 years old.

Ankeny Christian Childcare uses the Creative Curriculum with Iowa Early Learning Standards. They are also a Christian based center and has a Christian component added to their daily schedule. The center uses Playground Application to communicate with parents. The classrooms offer a variety of toys and learning centers that are nicely arranged. The teachers were engaged with the children and children were content.

Morning snack, Lunch and Afternoon Snacks are provided. Meals are in line with CACFP guidelines for healthy eating and prepared on site. Snacks and Lunches are served family-style in the classrooms.

The playground is divided by ages and is enclosed by chain link fencing. . There were a variety wooden play apparatus

meant to help develop large motor skills/balance.

Transportation: Transportation is provided before and after school; the center has 12 passenger, 15 passenger buses and a minivan--maintained by professionals. There are field trips in the summer months.

This center has attained Level I in Iowa's IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on).

This center is seeking to participate in Wages and TEACH programs (Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.)

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has a secure entrance with video monitoring of the center.

The management team is supportive of staff and invest in their staff.

Part-time care is available.

The director and owner are invested in the center and are supportive to families and teachers.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. Staff files reviewed were in need of repeat Iowa (SING) checks. The director stated those would be completed as soon as possible.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training. Staff files and Ipower files were reviewed, some needing to update mandatory reporter training.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon was last tested in 2021 and fell below the safe 4.0 cutoff.

The director stated the program is working to update and keep current all allergy plans.

Date: 10/25/2025

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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**.