**Iowa Department of Human Services**
**CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE**

**Name of Center:** Gan Shalom **Enrollment:** 34 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 41870

**Street:** 33158 Ute Avenue **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

**Mailing Address:** 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA, 50263

**Director's Name:** Juli Margolin and Raizel Small **Phone Number:** 515-987-0899

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Lisa Nelson **E-Mail:** juli@jewishdesmoines.org, raizel@jewishdesmoines.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 12-06-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

**LICENSING VISITS**

**New Application** X **Re-Application** **NA**

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-01-2023

**FIRE INSPECTION** **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

**Date Inspected:** 11-13-2023

**Comments :** Waukee Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations.

**LICENSE TYPE:** X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** Profit X Non-Profit NA

**Accredition:** Accredited NAEYC NSACA X Other NA

**Program Serves:** Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

**SCHEDULE:** X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

| **HOURS:** | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 0 | 13 | 37 | 0 | 50 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 12-07-2023

**I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

A licensing visit was conducted on 12/6/23. Director, Juli Margolin, was present throughout the visit and Director, Raizel Small, was present for a portion of 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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Gan Shalom is a child care center that was given permission to open under HHH (formerly known as DHS) supervision on 9/2/13. The center serves children two years in age through preschool age (five years old). There is a preschool component to the center and then all-day care Monday through Friday, and year-round. Children do not have to be of the Jewish faith to enroll at the center. The center utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum Gold Standards and there is also a Jewish and Hebrew learning curriculum that are also incorporated into lesson planning.

Gan Shalom is overseen by a Board of Directors. The directors of the center are Juli Margolin and Raizel Small. Juli and Raizel were previously on-site supervisors. Juli has a Masters degree in Education and has many years of experience working in child care including this program. Raizel has a Bachelors degree and also many years of experience working in child care. Lisa Nelson is the on-site supervisors. Lisa meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

There are four classrooms. The two year old room has a capacity of 13 children. The three year old classroom has a capacity of 12 children. The three/four year old classroom has a capacity of 15 children. The four/five year old classroom has a capacity of 10 children. There are other classrooms that are used sparingly (library, yoga/musical classroom, downstairs open area).

During the visit, children were observed washing their hands and then sitting down for the AM snack in several of the classrooms. Staff were attentive to children and getting them settled and also then sitting with them at the child-size tables and chairs.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center was again very clean and well organized. A professional company comes in several times a year to do a professional deep clean of the classrooms and common areas. Another professional company cleans the building daily.

A radon mitigation system is in place.

There is a large, indoor gym area for children to play when weather does not permit outdoor play. There is also a library that the program has access to.

All lead teachers have their degrees.

The center has their own website where additional information regarding the center, (their teachings, vision, programs, etc.) can be found.

Two parent teacher conferences are held each year and weekly newsletters/emails are sent to parents. There is also an online app (SeeSaw and/or Remind) for communication between parents and staff. The center recently started using the app, Playground, but this is for more internal use at this time.

There is a large storage closet for classroom toys, equipment, etc.

The center has a garden on their playground for children to grow their own fruits/vegetables.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

The center has good community partnerships (i.e. Des Moines Symphony). Agencies/professionals also come in to teach yoga, music, and other things to children.

Good staff-child interactions were overheard. Children were highly engaged listening and interacting with their teachers and each other.

The directors believe all staff work well together and are a close-knit group. There is also support from other individuals working within the building/campus.

**IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:**

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child's paperwork could not be located on the day of the visit.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
1. There was one cleaning bottle on the lower level that was not labeled.
2. There was a light ornament hanging in the lower level, but the cord was not securely fastened or tucked away and was instead, freely dangling.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
1.The center shares a fridge with the Federation. However, the fruit and vegetables in one of the refrigerators need to be stored on a higher shelf rather than a lower shelf and also be covered.
2. There was an issue with one box of cereal not being sufficiently sealed after being opened.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing is due every two years and was last tested 9/7/22 - 9/9/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. A radon mitigation system was also installed in 2017. 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 annual furnace inspection was completed on 12/5/23. The center is awaiting the invoice being sent to them.

As previously noted, the center provides the AM and PM snacks. Parents are responsible for providing lunches for their child.

The center goes on field trips and they take a center van. The center will also bring different agencies into the building for

presentations for the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. Several staff will need to upload their professional development training to I - Power.

It is again recommended the Emergency Preparedness kit be stored in a suitcase on wheels so it is more mobile if ever needed. It was noted the center is currently reviewing their plan and their relocation sites.

It is strongly recommended that a different disinfectant be used in classrooms that have diapering needs. Some suggestions were provided. This consultant also put the center in contact with their nurse consultant if any other questions regarding this recommendation.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*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.