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

Name of Center: Shining Stars Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 265 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26685

Street: 1250 NE 56th St **City:** Pleasant Hill Iowa **Zip** 50327 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Jana Lewis **Phone Number:** 515-564-0507

On-Site Supervisor(s): Dianna Marquardt, Gretchen Harris **E-Mail:** diannamarquardt@aol.com shiningstarscdc1@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-07-2025

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:** 12-17-2024

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

Date Inspected: 01-07-2025

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	32	48	90	120	290
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 01-13-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

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. 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. All classrooms that were in operation were observed today. Ratio requirements were met or exceeded licensing requirements. 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 a school age classroom, which wasn't in operation during today's visit.

Children were observed during individual and group activities. Children were primarily observed in their classrooms. A few classes were observed in the assembly hall, which is used for large motor play activities. Some classes were observed having lunch. Children were working on winter craft projects. Some children were dancing with music videos. Staff assisted children with preparing for naptime. Staff was engaged and assisting children with the various activities going on in each classroom.

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 lunch was meatballs, carrots, peaches, wheat bread and milk.

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.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center participates in IQ4K and has a four star rating. The has received various grants which have been used to purchase

furnishings, educational materials, toys for classrooms. 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.

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

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
One child's medication was expired.

V. 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.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.

*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.