Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Shining Stars Child Development Center III, Inc

Provider No.: 50369

Address: 4850 E University AVE, Pleasant Hill, IA, 50327

County: Polk

Director's Name: Lacey Gomez

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5152621202

E-Mail: shiningstarsdevcenter3@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/12/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

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: 3

- [ ] 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	18	64	28	142
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Shining Stars Child Development Center III was given permission to open in February 2019. The center is located in a single standing building. The center has a secured entrance. The re is a security system in place that allows all the classrooms and the outdoor areas to be viewed on monitors. The center serves children ages infancy through school age. The center is owned by Dianna Marquardt, who also owns the other Shining Stars daycare centers. Lacey Steele is the director. Lacey has employed with Shining Stars 2016.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Classrooms have schedules posted. Each class had lesson plans posted. Classrooms are well supplied with age appropriate furnishings, supplies and toys. Classrooms with children ages two and up have labeled interest centers. Lesson plans are completed by Gretchen Harris, who has an Bachelors degree in Early Education, for classrooms with children ages one and older.

Lacey assisted with today's visit. The following classrooms were in operation today: The Infant classroom had four infants present. There were two staff working in this class. In the Walker A, there were four children. One staff was working in this room. In Walker B, there were six children. Two staff were working in this classroom. 2's had ten children in attendance. Two staff were working with this age group. There were nine children in 3's. One staff was working in this classroom. Two staff were working with this group. PreK had seventeen children in attendance. Two staff were working in this classroom. School age room had thirty four children present. Three staff were working in this room. Children were observed in classrooms and on the playgrounds. Children were observed during group activities and during child directed activities. Children were doing table activities, like coloring, playing with playdough and doing artwork.

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The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The center participates in CACFP. Shining Stars Child Stars CDC I prepares lunch and makes menus for this center also.

The center has three playground areas. A small area is designated for infants, an area is designated for toddlers and preschool agers and the older children. There is shading in place. There are some climbing structures and grass turf is used for surfacing material. The center documented monthly playground checks.

Shining Stars Child Development Center owns several vehicles. They provide transportation for school and field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center participates in IQ4K and has earned a three star rating. The classrooms are well furnished and have a nice amount of play and learning supplies for children's use. There are security cameras in all classrooms and playgrounds.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
A few staffs' federal record checks weren't completed within the required time frame.

109.10(1): Medications: The center shall have written procedures for dispensing, storage, and authorization, and recording of all prescription and non-prescription medications.Staff must be over 18 to administer medication.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.For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given.For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.Staff shall not provide medications to a child if pre-service/orientation training for medication management has not been completed.
A child had an epi pen. The emergency care plan hadn't been updated since 2024.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
There was a large garbage bag on the floor in the 3's classroom, full of trash. The garbage bag was open and accessible to the children.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

This 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.

Date: 04/20/2026

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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**.