Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Generation Next-Prairie Trail, Ankeny

Provider No.: 52961

Address: 1715 SW Plaza Parkway, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Samantha Cornelius

On-Site Supervisor: Madison Thielen (assistant dir)

Phone Number: 5159651715

E-Mail: director.prairietrail@cadence-academy.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/13/2026

Licensing Period: 08/11/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/04/2024

Comments: Fire inspections 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 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 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	93	45	90	35	263
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 7/13/26. The assistant director was present for the entire visit.

Generation Next--Prairie Trail, Ankeny was built in 2013 specifically to provide child care; with an addition in 2015 to provide for school age care as well. This center was acquired by Cadence Academy in August of 2025. Samantha Cornelius is the director, starting in this role in 2020. Samantha worked at Generation Next for seven years prior to becoming Director. Madison Thielen is the assistant director, starting in this role in the fall of 2022. Madison has an Associate's degree in Arts and worked at Generation Next for four years prior to becoming the on-site supervisor. Both meet the points for their positions.

This center provides traditional daycare and preschool for children ages 6 weeks to school age, Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

This center will be using the Ascend Curriculum. Since being acquired by Cadence, Kaymbu is the application used to communicate with families. The rooms are clean and offer a good variety of learning centers and toys. The children were content and staff were consistently engaged with the children, either meeting individual needs or leading group activities. The teachers work well together.

Generation Next-Prairie Trail, Ankeny has an on-site kitchen, with meals prepared on-site and fresh. The menus are in line with CACFP healthy eating guidelines. The center offers morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. Children over age 2 come to the cafeteria adjacent to the kitchen and have meals served on trays by staff. Younger children eat in their classrooms.

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The center offers an outdoor playground, enclosed with fending and separated by ages with play equipment and outdoor toys available.

This center provides school transportation for Ankeny Schools

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The staff work well together and enjoy the children and the parents. The staff present as professional and are well trained.

Staff are passionate about what they do. The staff go above and beyond and are creative. There are some long term staff at the center with several staff having been with the center over 10 years.

There continues to be good communication with the families; with a Facebook page, and website.

The center has a secure entrance and video monitoring.

The managers/administrative team go into the classrooms daily to observe and offer support to staff. The management team continues to
observe staff to see that they are providing for positive interactions, playing with the children, engaged with the children and that they show knowledge about children and development; that they are proud of the children.

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.

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.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

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

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.
-A staff file reviewed had expired Iowa Record checks (SING) and the assistant director completed the updated check while the visit took place

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.
-A staff file reviewed did not contain a valid CPR/First Aid completion certificate
-The assistant director stated the staff was scheduled to update this training the following week and will provide the updated completion certificate to licensing

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report
-A child file reviewed was missing an updated physical exam form
-The director will seek to obtain this from the family and place in the child's file.

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Discussion took place with the need to thoroughly clean the tops of garbage receptacles, the infants room contains were in need of cleaning

Discussion took place that a cabinet door in the sophomore room had a broken bracket that could result in pinching; and the assistant director stated they have "put in a ticket" with maintenance.

Discussion took place regarding uneven cement on the west side playground that needs repaired or leveled.

Radon testing was completed 9/2/22 and all rooms tested <4.0 (now due in 2027).

The most current HVAC inspection was dated>>>>

Date: 08/19/2026

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**.