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: Hali@GenerationNextIA.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/05/2025

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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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 11/5/2025; The director and on-site supervisor were present during the 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 uses currently uses Read It Once Again Learning Curriculum for younger children; along with Haggerty for older children. 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.

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

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 one staff at 11 years and 5 staff at 10 years.

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

The center has a secure entrance.

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

There were not aspects that fall below standards reviewed.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

Date: 11/13/2025

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**.