Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KinderCare Learning Center - Ankeny

Provider No.: 50489

Address: 3055 N Ankeny BLVD, Ankeny, IA, 50021

County: Polk

Director's Name: Mary Pickering

On-Site Supervisor: Taylor Proctor

Phone Number: 5159640688

E-Mail: ankeny@kindercare.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/30/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/21/2026

Comments: Ankeny Fire Marshal. The center had one light to fix/replace on their last inspection.

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 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 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	48	28	40	30	146
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 1/30/26. The director and on-site supervisor were present throughout the inspection.

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.

Kindercare Learning Center Ankeny was given permission to open under HHS supervision in 3/2019. This is one of several Kindercare centers owned and operated by Kindercare Corporation located in Iowa. The center is open year-round and serves children six weeks in age through 12 years in age using a Kindercare learning curriculum. Total child enrollment at this time is 89 children.

Mary Pickering is the current director as of 8/2025. Mary has an AA degree and has past experience working in childcare, which includes experience as an area director for another child care program. Taylor Proctor is the on-site supervisor as of roughly 7/2021. Taylor has past experience working in child care and has taken a number of professional development courses to meet the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

During the inspection, children were observed in a variety of activities from washing their hands, to being bottle fed, to lying down for naps on cots and in cribs. Toys, cribs, cots, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily. Children who were still awake gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

NUTRITION: The center has a full kitchen and employs a full-time cook. The center serves breakfast, lunch, and a PM snack to children. All food items were credible per CACFP requirements. All food storage was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has two buses. Regular maintenance is performed on the buses. Children of a certain age are eligible for field trips. Field trips are generally taken during the summer months only. For all transportation, children's emergency contacts and a first-aid kit are taken along.

PLAYGROUND: The center has three different playgrounds for children based on their ages. The playground was only partially observed at this inspection. There are age-appropriate climbing structures and riding toys on each playground. The playground are entirely fenced in, however, some of the bolts along the fence and the gates need to be trimmed down and capped so that no more than two threads are showing. Monthly playground checks are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This is one of several Kindercare centers located in the Des Moines Metro. The centers share the same handbooks, trainings, staff if needed, and operate in similar fashion so there is continuity.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

Monthly staff meetings are held at this center. In addition, all of the directors of Kindercare centers meet weekly either in person or virtually for meetings.

There is an indoor gym when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

The center employs a full-time cook.

The center uses a Kindercare electronic app for increased communication with parents.

There is a staff shout out board for recognizing staff and good work by staff.

Child files were nicely organized.

The director has past experience being a director over multiple centers.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)i : One child was missing an updated physical in their file.

109.10(7) First aid kit: All first-aid backpacks should be labeled as such.

109.11(3)a : There were some cleaning products in a lower cabinet in the restroom of a two year old classroom and the cabinet didn't sufficiently lock.

109.11(4)a : Several bolts along the outdoor playground fences and gates need to be cut so that no more than two threads are showing.

109.12(1) : For daily schedules in several classrooms, the times between meals needs to be changed so that they are no sooner than two hours apart or more than three hours apart (unless napping). Several classroom schedules were also missing the time PM snack was served.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

The below standard items should be corrected by the time of next year's inspection.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing in classrooms was last conducted 12/7/23 - 12/10/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. For licensing, only classrooms need to be tested. 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/HVAC inspection was recently conducted, but the center did not yet have the invoice per the director and on-site supervisor. These invoices should be kept on site for annual review by licensing.

IQ4K was discussed at the inspection visit. The center is currently looking into this and the director thought this was planned for sometime in the near future.

I - Power was discussed at the inspection visit. All staff appear to have I - Power profiles. However, first-aid/CPR and Mandatory Reporter will need to be manually uploaded to individual files. Also, if any staff are no longer employed by the center, their I - Power profile should be removed.

It was noted that several screens were broken. No windows were open on the day of the inspection, but if the center would like to open windows when weather permits, then the screens will need to be repaired first. It was discussed of possibly moving the screens to the upper windows and opening them that way so that children couldn't push on the screens.

It was noted on the bus that was observed that it needed to be swept out.

The updated diapering procedures posting and the updated monthly playground inspection form were emailed to the center after the inspection concluded.

The disinfecting product the center is using was questioned and a referral was made to child care center CCNCs for review to see if a better, more efficient product should be used.

Date: 02/02/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.