Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Prairie Flower Children's Center

Provider No.: 52291

Address: 1517 Northwestern AVE, Ames, IA, 50010

County: Story

Director's Name: Monica Marcomb

On-Site Supervisor: Keeley Oldham

Phone Number: 5152924312

E-Mail: director@prairieflowercc.org

HHS Visit Date: 01/21/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2026 to 02/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/11/2024

Comments: Fire inspection due at least every three years. Completed by Ames Fire Dept Jason Ziph.

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	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			32		32
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed 1/21/25 and the director was present for the entire visit.

Prairie Flower children's center was given permission to open 10-6-23. This is a pre-school cooperative program where parents are integrated into the learning program and are expected to provide 10 hours/semester of involvement/volunteering with the program. Prairie Flower operates from Bethesda Lutheran Church. Prairie Flower is a nature-based program and curriculum runs on what the program refers to as "rhythms"--daily themes. Families can chose between half and full-days. The program has a board of directors. Monica Marcomb is the center director.

Center Hours are 8:00 AM until 5:30 PM daily.

Room Observations/activities: The classroom is nicely arranged and has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. This program has rhythms of the day/week, which are themes. Curriculum is pulled from Iowa Early Learning Standards and lesson plans are crafted by the director. Bright Wheel is the application used to communicate with parents. Staff were observed to maintain structure in the classroom while responding to the children in nurturing manner--the children were building snow castles while waiting to go on a hike.

Prairie Flower Children's center has families providing snacks for their child while the program provides lunch and this center is enrolled in and follows CACFP healthy eating guidelines.

Playground: There is a large green space located on the church property that will be utilized as the play area; the program

also incorporates trails, hiking etc as large motor play. The program has added play structures and working to raise funds to construct a sand pit.

Transportation: The parents of the children in the program coordinate transportation; the program uses extra staff or volunteers when the children are on a walking trip or bus trip.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center provides an opportunity for parent integration into the program at times to enhance activities.

This program and director continue to access community resources including CCR&R to assist in the program requirements.

The children were observed to be content, staff maintaining good structure in the room and on the hike.

This program and staff are working toward securing IQ4K Accreditation. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on
PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training provides educators with the skills to implement a school-wide framework for improving student behavior and well-being

Prairie Flower CC also has participated in Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa.; and TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

=One staff file indicated that a repeat SING or Iowa Background was due; and was completed by the director during this visit.

=One staff was beyond the initial 3 months of employment and had not yet completed CPR/First Aid. The Director is scheduling a group of staff to complete this certification as soon as able. The director will email this consultant upon completion of this certification.

=one staff file was missing National Checks (finger prints). The director had submitted them in 2024, but no results were located in the file. The director indicated that these will be repeated.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Discussion took place with regard to the need to maintain up to date child physicals and the director had contacted the family.

A new full two year license is recommended.

Date: 01/23/2026

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**.