Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Ankeny Christian Academy Childcare

Provider No.: 52236

Address: 1900 NW 4th St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Teri Ellwanger

On-Site Supervisor: NA

Phone Number: 5159719622

E-Mail: teri.ellwanger@acaeagles.net

HHS Visit Date: 01/28/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/26/2025

Comments: Fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by Ankeny Fire Dept. LT Tyson Hood

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	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Tuesday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Wednesday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Thursday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Friday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			42		42
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 1-28-26; and Director Ms. Teri Ellwanger was present through the entire visit.

Ankeny Christian Academy Childcare was started in 2001 and was given permission to open at this site on 8-11-23. This program is now located in a renovated building on the campus of Faith Baptist Bible College. They offer care to preschool age children, year round full day child care, and before and after school age care (at another site) . The program is in operation from 6:45 am-5:45 pm. Teri Ellwanger is the director for the three programs. She has been with this program since 2004, and has been the director since 2006. She is a licensed preschool teacher and meets the requirements for the program director position.

This program uses the Abeka curriculum and also pulls from Iowa Early Learning standards. There is a text message group the program uses to communication with parents. The center is very organized and offers a good variety of activity centers and toys that are developmentally and age appropriate. The teachers were engaged in leading small group activities while other children were independently playing. The children were content and responsive to the structure in the program.

The children enrolled bring their own lunches or have the option of ordering through the dining hall from the adjacent college. The program follows CACFP guidelines for snack. Meals/snacks are served family style in the classrooms. Menus were posted.

Playground: This center is located on a large campus and has use of a large green space.

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Transportation/Field trips: Parents provide daily transportation and transportation for field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The teachers work well as a team to maintain a nurturing structure for the program.

The Director shared this program continues to strive to ensure the children are well prepared for kindergarten. The program does not have to advertise for enrollment.

The preschool offers full day care to the families they serve which is a benefit for working families who need full day childcare.

The program has a strong working relationship and partnership with the school and now with the Faith Baptist Bible College where the preschool now operates from.

The Director has been with the school and the preschool for more than twenty-five years and is a strong resource for the program.

The program has a family atmosphere and the staff work well together. Staff are appreciated and Teri conducts staff activities.

The program has the Lions Club come out to do vision screenings and Heartland comes out to do hearing screenings.

The center has a secure entrance. There is video monitoring on the exterior.

The staff are creative and take pride in their classrooms; that showcase the children's artworks or other projects also.

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.

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

109.6(4)c: One staff file was in need of an Iowa (SING) check to be updated as the last check was completed more than two years prior. The background checks for the program are completed by the school administration. There was a misunderstanding regarding the criteria of a SING check. The school administration promptly regained access to complete the Iowa Background check, and completed the missing check. No further actions at this time.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed in 6/2024 and levels were under 4.0, safety threshold and so not due again for five years.

Date: 03/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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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**.