Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Gan Shalom

Provider No.: 41870

Address: 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA, 50263

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Juli Margolin and Raizel Small

On-Site Supervisor: Lisa Nelson

Phone Number: 5159870899

E-Mail: juli@jewishdesmoines.org, raizel@jewishdesmoines.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/19/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/05/2025

Comments: Waukee Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations. Waukee typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	13	37	0	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 11/19/25. Director, Juli Margolin, was present throughout the visit and Director, Raizel Small, was present for a portion of this visit. Juli's and Raizel's supervisor was also present for a portion of this 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 (not observed up close this year), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Gan Shalom is a child care center that was given permission to open under HHH (formerly known as DHS) supervision on 9/2/13. The center serves children two years in age through preschool age (five years old). There is a preschool component to the center and then all-day care Monday through Friday, and year-round. Children do not have to be of the Jewish faith to enroll at the center. The center utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum Gold Standards and there is also a Jewish and Hebrew learning curriculum that are also incorporated into lesson planning.

Gan Shalom is overseen by a Board of Directors. The directors of the center are Juli Margolin and Raizel Small. Juli and Raizel were previously on-site supervisors. Juli has a Masters degree in Education and has many years of experience working in child care including this program. Raizel has a Bachelors degree and also many years of experience working in child care. Lisa Nelson is the on-site supervisor. Lisa meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

There are four classrooms. The two year old room has a capacity of 13 children. The three year old classroom has a capacity of 12 children. The three/four year old classroom has a capacity of 15 children. The four/five year old classroom

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has a capacity of 10 children. There are other classrooms that are used sparingly (library, yoga/music classroom, and a downstairs open area).

During the visit, children were observed in large groups in two classrooms. One classroom was learning the Hebrew alphabet. Another classroom was learning how to say colors in Hebrew. A third classroom was engaged in free-choice play and a forth classroom was going outside to walk around the campus. Staff were highly engaged with children and all of their activities. Classrooms are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily.

Total child enrollment currently is 38 children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center was again very clean and well organized. A professional company comes in several times a year to do a professional deep clean of the classrooms and common areas. Another professional company cleans the building daily.

A radon mitigation system is in place.

There is a large, indoor gym area for children to play when weather does not permit outdoor play. There is also a library that the program has access to.

All lead teachers have their degrees.

The center has their own website where additional information regarding the center, (their teachings, vision, programs, etc.) can be found. The center also has an Instagram account and a Facebook page.

Two parent teacher conferences are held each year and daily newsletters/emails are sent to parents. There is also an online app (SeeSaw and/or Remind) for communication between parents and staff. The center is also continues to slowly transitioning more fully to the app, Playground.

There is a lot of storage space.

The center has a garden on their playground for children to grow their own fruits/vegetables. An outdoor classroom is in development.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

The center has good community partnerships (i.e. Des Moines Symphony, Civic Center, Waukee Public Library, etc.). Agencies/professionals also come in to teach yoga, music, and other things to children.

Good staff-child interactions were overheard. Children were engaged listening and interacting with their teachers and each other.

The directors believe all staff work well together and are a close-knit group. Several staff also mentioned this. There is also support from other individuals working within the building/campus.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

One staff member's fingerprint results could not be located. This staff will have to be re-fingerprinted most likely. Some SING results were fully completed.

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

One staff member's fingerprint results could not be located. This staff will have to be re-fingerprinted most likely. Some SING results were fully completed. Gan Shalom's HR department will handle this matter immediately per the directors.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing is due every two years and was last tested 11/12/24 - 11/18/24. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. A radon mitigation system was also installed in 2017. 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 inspection was last completed the week of 11/10/25 per one director. They are awaiting the inspection report/invoice.

As previously noted, the center provides the AM and PM snacks. Parents are responsible for providing lunches for their child. Food storage throughout the center and center kitchen was sufficient.

The center goes on field trips and they take a center van. The center will also bring different agencies into the building for presentations for the children. The van was off site during the day of the inspection.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload training certificates into their I- Power profiles. Mandatory Reporter as well as First-Aid/CPR typically will need to be manually uploaded to profiles.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent in on 11/10/25 by US Mail per the director.

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Date: 11/20/2025

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**.