Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Gan Shalom **Enrollment:** 39 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 41870

Street: 33158 Ute Avenue **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA, 50263

Director's Name: Juli Margolin and Raizel Small **Phone Number:** 515-987-0899

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lisa Nelson **E-Mail:** juli@jewishdesmoines.org, raizel@jewishdesmoines.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-03-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-01-2023

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 11-21-2024

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

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA X Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

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

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 12-04-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 12/3/24. Director, Juli Margolin, was present throughout the visit and Director, Raizel Small, was present for a portion of this visit.

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

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities that included a large group discussion being facilitated by staff, washing their hands, and putting on their coats/hats/gloves to play on the playground. Children gave specific answers to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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 weekly 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 transitioning more fully to the app, Playground.

There is a large storage closet for classroom toys, equipment, etc.

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.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1 newer staff member has not yet been fingerprinted. THIS IS SCHEDULED.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
Two child updated files could not be observed. 2023 paperwork was observed, but not available in Playground for 2024. It appears that perhaps something happened with this not being uploaded correctly as there was documentation it was completed in 8/2024, but not information for 2024 could be observed.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Fire and tornado drills were not documented for November 2024.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
Monthly playground inspections for November 2024 were not documented.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Children need to be served one percent or skim cows milk and not two percent.

V. 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 completed on 9/6/24.

As previously noted, the center provides the AM and PM snacks. Parents are responsible for providing lunches for their child.

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.

I-Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. The center has started the initial IQ4K process. Staff should continue to upload training certificates into their I- Power profiles. Some staff have and some have not.

The center will need to streamline their child paperwork over the next year and make sure all child files are current either in Playground or hard copy.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.