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

Name of Center: The Kid Project Community Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 160 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19224

Street: 2365 Industrial Parkway SW **City:** Dyersville Iowa **Zip** 52040 **County:** Dubuque

Mailing Address: PO Box 213, Dyersville, IA, 52040

Director's Name: Barb Maiers **Phone Number:** 563-875-2080

On-Site Supervisor(s): Melanie Wilson, Stacie Drewelow **E-Mail:** bmaiers.thekidproject@mediacombb.net

Date(s) of Visit: 03-17-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 11-21-2024

Comments :

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 Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	50	24	106	75	255
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 03-28-2025

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

Not applicable

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Kid Project Community Child Care Center (TKPCCCC) is well established and located in a predominantly rural area. The program operates Monday through Friday 5:30am to 6:00pm. TKPCCCC serves children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 160.

TKPCCCC director is Barb Maiers. Ms. Maiers has been the center director since operations commenced in 1994. Ms. Maiers has an early childhood diploma, is celebrating 37 years working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 3/17/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

TKPCCCC has been in operation for many years offering a variety of early learning programming and childcare options to help meet the needs of children and families in the community.

The goal of TKPCCCC is "...to provide a quality and affordable childcare program for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years one which considers the total welfare of the children..."

TKPCCCC has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their program: https://www.dyersville.com/kid-project-20.

TKPCCCC participates in quality initiatives including IQ4K, local quality initiatives and CACFP.

TKPCCCC is non-profit and operates under a voluntary board. The history of how TKPCCCC came fruition, including current relocation, is impressive! This program commenced operations in 1994 after the Dyersville Area Community Foundation recognized a need for childcare in the community. In 2025, TKPCCCC will be celebrating 31 years of providing childcare within the community. Congratulations!

Program director is Barb Maiers. Ms. Maiers is currently celebrating 37 years of experience in early childhood education! Most recently, Ms. Maiers was nominated for the 2025 Dyersville Area Woman of the Year. Ownership and management of this program is seasoned and consistent. The management team (e.g. Ms. Maiers, Ms. Wilson, Drewelow) is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. The management team is also organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Throughout the classrooms, staff reported celebrating 11 years, 5 years and 2 months employment with TKPCCCC. The program encourages staff to seek professionals goals and celebrates their successes. Ms. Maiers discussed having a good, reliable hard-working team of staff.

TKPCCCC continues efforts at optimal communication between staff and families. The program has organized parent-program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Maiers talked about the positive family feedback they've received indicating families and the community are very supportive.

In November 2024, TKPCCCC relocated to a newly constructed state-of-the-art childcare building located in Dyersville's West Industrial Park. Upon entry into the vestibule area, safety and security features are quite evident. It's noted that the entire childcare building was designed and constructed to serve as a storm shelter meeting the ICC 500 standard. Building and grounds are pristine! Each classroom has impressive cabinetry to store child materials as well as custom built diapering stations and infant seat storage. The building has a nursing room with hand washing sink. The kitchen is spacious, highly organized and sanitary. Classrooms are warm and inviting being arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Furnishings and materials are nicely organized and child accessible. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, projects) are visible throughout the program space. Curriculum includes a combination of learning strategies incorporating teacher inspired ideas, phonics work, math concepts, small and large gross motor, imaginative play experiences, and crafts. Curriculum also incorporates off-site field trip experiences, on-site guest speaker events, themed days, holiday-seasonal parties, and parent-teacher conferences. Ms. Maiers discussed future goals related to the full completion of the outdoor play areas.

TKPCCCC collaborates well with community partners including local businesses, local school districts with school to childcare transportation, Dyersville Chamber of Commerce, Dyersville Workforce Development, Dyersville Area Community Foundation, health professionals and the local AEA program where materials can be borrowed to supplement program activities. The most noted recent partnerships occurred during the new construction project which created many new childcare slots, aligned with business workforce needs, and helped support growing families.

TKPCCCC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through past local flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. TKPCCCC has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study throughout the classrooms included St. Patrick's Day festivities with many children and staff wearing the color "green"! Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, finger plays, music with movement, book reading, one-on-one counting work, play experiences). Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles, crafts, sensory items) that encourage innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of meaningful discussion, using positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Licensing supports fencing for the outdoor spaces to the north and east of the building. There is much open green space that can be used for children including group games and school-age summer fun (e.g. relay races, water play).

Please send documentation to licensing once the outdoor playgrounds are fully ready for use.

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The administrative change noting the increased total capacity as well as relocation address Is included in this report.

Also noted is that this program provided a regulatory fee payment in April 2024 and again in November 2024. Determination was made that this will cover licensing cycles until 2028.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.