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

Name of Center: Kids West-Clive Learning Academy **Enrollment:** 73 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 41570

Street: 1600 73rd St **City:** Windsor Heights Iowa **Zip** 50324 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3550 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz **Phone Number:** 515-633-5018

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amy Onstot **E-Mail:** clkidswest@wdmcs.org kunza@wdmcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-26-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-12-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-12-2023

Comments : Windsor Heights Fire Marshal. Inspections are required per state regulations at least every three years.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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	0	0	0	190	190
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-26-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 8/26/24. The director was present throughout the visit as was the assistant on-site supervisor.

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, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Kids West Clive Learning Academy is a school-age program located within the Clive Elementary School. The center predominately uses the gym, cafeteria (new cafeteria), and outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open under HHS (formerly DHS) supervision on 8/22/14. Previous to this date, the center was under the Department of Education's supervision. There is a before and after school component as well as a full-day component during the summer and no school days. Before school hours are 6:30am - 9:05am and after school hours are 3:55pm - 6:00pm (with the exception of Wednesday early out days). Full day programming is 6:30am - 6:00pm.

The center is overseen by a Board and owned by the West Des Moines School District. Ashley Kunz is the new director of this program as well as the seven other Kids West programs. Ashley has a BA degree as well as past experience working in child care. Her past experience includes being an area director for another child care program with multiple sites in the Des Moines metro. The on-site supervisor of this location is Amy Onstot. Amy has her AA degree in Applied Sciences and has also worked in child care for a number of years.

The capacity of the gym is 105 children. The capacity of the cafeteria is 85 children.

During the visit, children were divided up between the gym and cafeteria. In the cafeteria, children were in smaller groups and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. In the gym, children were engaged in large motor activities. Staff were spaced out in the cafeteria and in the gym and they were engaged with children and their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has several nights throughout the year where parents are invited to activities. These include, but are not limited to a family orientation night, a Halloween celebration night, other holiday celebrations, etc.

A focal point is for staff to get to know parents of children they serve on a more personal level. Staff believe they have good relationships with the families they serve.

The center has access to the school dishwasher for sanitizing toys.

A nutritionist reviews all meal items.

The Kids West programs have behavioral specialists on -site throughout their programs.

Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate throughout different areas used by the center.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

Staff pictures are posted.

The director attends meetings with other directors of school-age programs in the western suburbs throughout the year.

The on-site supervisor has weekly staff meetings with other Kids West on-site supervisors.

The on-site supervisor has monthly all staff meetings with her staff.

The center has a good working relationship with other school personnel.

The center has a lot more storage space and room to move around since the new addition (cafeteria) was added.

Enrollment remains steady.

New playground equipment has been installed over the past year.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease. THIS IS A REPEAT LICENSING REGULATION VIOLATION FROM LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH FOR DIFFERENT THINGS.
1. On the playground, there were metal/steel wires exposed on one of the cables on a climbing structure.
2. There was an adult scissors accessible in a lower unlocked cabinet in the cafeteria.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they serve school-age children in a school building. Should the center start up a wrap-around preschool program, they will then need to have a carbon monoxide detector in the preschool room, test for radon in the preschool room, and have copies of fuel burning appliance annual inspections.

Should the program open a wrap-around program in the future, the classroom capacity will be 22 children. This classroom was observed at the visit on 8/26/24.

The center continues to contract with the school district for field trips and takes a school bus.

I - Power was again discussed at this year's visit. All staff will need to have I-Power profiles and be uploading training certificates.

It is recommended that the director also have access to staff physicals as this is a part of licensing that the director needs to monitor.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application along with payment was sent in 8/12/24.

*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.