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

Name of Center: Rock Rapids Kids Club **Enrollment:** 157 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29515

Street: 304 S Lincoln ST **City:** Rock Rapids Iowa **Zip** 51246 **County:** Lyon

Mailing Address: 304 S Lincoln ST, Rock Rapids, IA, 51246

Director's Name: Ashley Ahrent **Phone Number:** 712-472-2686

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brenda Deutsch **E-Mail:** kidsclub@premieronline.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-06-2023

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 06-03-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-11-2020

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	34	34	58	40	166
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 07-13-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited the center on 07-06-23 and spoke with new director Ashley Ahrent as Shanae Klaasen had resigned. Ashley Ahrent became the new director for this program on October 7, 2022. Ashley has 13 years of experience with working at the center and many years of trainings. Brenda Duetsch is the onsite supervisor and has also been with the center for many years as well. Kids club is located in a facility that was built specifically for childcare and provides care for infants through school age. There are six rooms and a gym area throughout the building for the children. Three fenced-in playgrounds (one for infants, one for younger children and another for older children) are located next to the building. The center has a number pad/thumbprint for security to the building. If a person does not know the pass code a staff must let them in. The center's hours are Monday through Friday 6am to 5:30pm.

There are 157 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit only 116 children were present. All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys that children use. The Director is in the process of updating staff/children's files so she is aware that several files are outdated. Center also only do 4 or 5 day weekly contracts with families.

Infant room had staff who had good interactions with the infants and attended to their needs during this visit. Room is arranged to provide a safe environment for infants. There is a sink and changing table in the room. Sufficient number of toys for the number of infants that the room can accommodate. Good hand washing procedures for staff and infants were observed. The infants are provided with good stimulation and nurturance throughout the day. Observed the children to sleep, talking with the children and playing with the children. Staff should not be stepping over the gate but rather open the gate to ensure no tripping and safety for the children as well as the staff.

One year old room had staff were helping children during mealtime, talking to the children, staff on the floor playing with the children. There is a sufficient number of toys for the number of infants in the room. There is a sink and diaper changing area in the room. Infant size furniture. Toys are at the children's level and easily accessible. Good hand washing procedures for both children and staff are followed in this room. Displayed throughout the room were children's artwork, and pictures of the children's families.

Two and three year old room has the following areas throughout the area for the children to explore and learn: books, toys and kitchen. During this visit observed the children participating in the following activities: free play (during this time children can explore the various centers throughout the room), outside time, lunch, and staff reading stories to the children. Children have access to the bathroom. Toys are accessible to the children and at their level. Staff had good interaction with the children. Observed staff at the tables helping children with various activities, assisting children during mealtimes. Displayed throughout the room were the numbers, alphabet, pictures of the children & their families and children's artwork. Daily schedule of activities was posted.

Four/five year old room also had sufficient amount of equipment and toys for the number of children in this room. The center has the following areas throughout this room for the children to explore and learn: books, kitchen, art, toys, sand/water table, games, dramatic play and puzzles. Observed staff sitting at tables with the children during lunch. Displayed throughout the room were numbers, children's artwork and days of the week.

School age room had had various centers set up to allow the children to choose an activity they wanted. Children have access to bathrooms. Sufficient amount of equipment and toys for the number of children in this room. The center has the following areas throughout this room for the children to explore and learn: books, art, toys, legos, games, toys, blocks and puzzles.
Staff need to put cleaning products up and out of reach of children.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Refrigerators are clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The center participates in the CACFP program. Menus were posted. Lunches are provided thru Sherry's Kitchen. The center provides breakfast and snacks.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills need to be documented each month. Radon levels are in normal range. Annual heating inspection is complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained.

They have three playgrounds one for children under age two and one for younger children and another for older children. The playgrounds are fenced in and have cement and rubber for surfacing, or grass. The playgrounds have riding equipment/vehicles, basketball hoop, water table, balls and a playhouse. The center also put in a 1/2 basketball court and awning for more shade. The program had a mud kitchen that needed repaired. It is recommended until repaired to remove from the playground.

Center Transportation Arrangements /Field Trips
Center uses a small bus to transport children to and from school or on field trips. Maintenance records are kept. Program recently bought a 2012 Chevy Van in June 2022..

Goals for the center are to get on the IQ4K program, incorporate a 2 year old curriculum, Director to obtain her CDA and a new bus for the center. Have more staff training's beyond what is required of them to have quality staff and build in a professional development day.

Strengths of the center: The center has a good core team with some who have longevity. Staff who love their job and being with the kids. Good staff teamwork and good relationship with families and the kids they serve. Center actively looks for grants/fund raisers to help with improvements or new toys the center may need. Some staff utilize the TEACH and WAGES programs.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center has staff that have longevity (3 years plus).

Center uses Pro-care app for communication with parents.

Center displays children's art work throughout the rooms and building.

Each classroom has white board outside the classroom where they list what the children did in the room on that day.

Upgraded playground with surfacing (rubber tiles) and new equipment.

Child size furniture throughout the building.

Center asks questions when needed.

Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

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: 3

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 5

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 7
Information lacking: Information was either outdated or missing.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 6

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. 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.
Center needs to ensure all cleaning products are out of reach of children, staff do not "hop" over infant room 1/2 wall, and mud kitchen needs to be fixed and removed from playground until fixed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center needs to email consultant when items that fall below standards have been completed by 08-31-23. It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for support with being a new director. Other tools given or sent to director, licensing checklist to complete self-audit, power point on HHS licensing rules and HHS licensing binder.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.