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

Name of Center: Kessel Kids Child Care & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 189 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19073

Street: 1135 Canterbury ST **City:** Cresco Iowa **Zip** 52136 **County:** Howard

Mailing Address: 1135 Canterbury ST, Cresco, IA, 52136

Director's Name: Melissa Vobr **Phone Number:** 563-547-3006

On-Site Supervisor(s): Melissa Vobr **E-Mail:** kesselkids@iowatelecom.net

Date(s) of Visit: 02-08-2023

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:** 01-05-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-17-2021

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	28	15	51	43	137
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 02-23-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 02/08/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Kessel Kids Child Care and Learning Center in Cresco. I met with Melissa Vobr, the director. Ms. Vobr has been the director since 2008. She has a BA in psychology and business administration. She was an assistant director for two years at the center prior to becoming the director. Ms. Vobr has received her National Administrator Credential (NAC). She is also a NAEYC member. Ashley Shimek is the assistant director and is in charge when Ms. Vobr is away from the center. There is 48 staff members employed at the center.

Kessel Kids Child Care and Learning Center operates out of a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 6:00 pm. They care for infants through school-aged children. The childcare program started in 1993 and they moved to their current location on 06/02/08. The building was a partnership between the Howard-Winneshiek School District, Head Start, HAWC and Keystone AEA. There are currently 189 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: two infant rooms (one for mobile and non-mobile children), a room for younger one-year-old children, a room for older one-year-old and younger two-year-old children; a room for older two-year-old children, a room for three-year-old children, a room for four and five-year-old children, and a school-aged room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with multiple pictures of the children and their families, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There are areas for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, puppets, art, dramatic play, Play Doh, Ipads, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The preschool classroom uses Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans and GOLD assessments are completed on the children. The other program rooms use the Dr. Terrie Rose PLAYbook curriculum and a variety of other resources to create lesson plans. Activities are based on themes. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans. Newsletters are prepared monthly by each room and provided to the parents. A lesson plan was available for review in each room. There is a smart board in the preschool room to assist in teaching. The program is using ProCare to complete daily sheets and to communicate with all the parents. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is used in the classrooms to redirect behaviors and meet the needs of the children.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and emergency evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program and outdoor exits, except near the door to the hallway in the gym. Please place the diagram in this area. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in January 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The entire

building is electric so the fuel burning inspection and the carbon monoxide detector are not required. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/17/21, with compliance on 12/27/21.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Lunch is prepared by the Howard-Winneshiek School district during the school year. During the summer months the school provides the food items to the childcare center and the cook makes lunch. The center prepares breakfast and the morning and afternoon snack for the children. The center dishes food out on the plates for lunch and serves them to the children at the table. Family style is used for breakfast and snack for the older children. The meals and snacks are served in the rooms. The kitchen area has an industrial refrigerator and freezer. Thermometers were present. There is also a refrigerator in the infant room and thermometers were present. An industrial dishwasher is used for dishes. The kitchen staff washes the dishes by hand before running the dishes through the dishwasher to sanitize them. Dishes are then allowed to air dry.

The center provides one brand of formula, jar food and cereal to the infants. If parents want a different brand, they provide it. Bottles are returned to the kitchen and put through the dishwasher. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

Menus are posted in the kitchen and in each of the rooms. The school provides a new lunch menu each month and the center have a six-week rotation of menus for breakfast and snacks. Allergies are confidentially posted.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the diaper changing tables.

I observed and discussed diaper changing procedures with staff members. In the infant room the staff members are wiping the children's hands with wet wipes but not always washing their hands with soap and water. Children's hands must always be washed with soap and water following a diaper change. Each classroom has access to a bathroom and there are multiple sinks in the classrooms. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted.

Infants use cribs to nap. Children start transitioning to cots when they turn one-year-old.

The childcare center has two fenced in outdoor play areas. There is a hill built into this area that has two slides. There is a large sandbox, a rock path and concrete path, a stage for the children to perform on, a music center, sensory center and a large shade shelter. There are flower and vegetable gardens, and trees provide shade. Picnic tables are available.

The second area recently added a new fall surfacing. They removed the rubber tiles and added Poly Extruded Matting (PEM) for cushion surfacing. The PEM Playground Matting has shredded rubber contained in chambers. This area is divided into two spaces to accommodate a space for infant and toddlers. The area for the older children has climbing equipment with slides and other activities, a sandbox, a bus to sit in, climbing ropes and a balance beam. There is also a grassy area for the children and a picnic table. The area for the infants and toddlers has a treehouse with a slide, pushing toys, rocking toys and a small piece of climbing equipment with slides. Shade is provided by the building and a shade structure with a tarp. There is also a tree for shade. There is also a large multi-purpose room available for indoor activities.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twenty children files. They were in great condition. One file did not provide information for an emergency contact. They must provide you someone in case you cannot reach the parents. This will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

I reviewed eight staff files. They were in good condition. Two staff members had outdated mandatory reporter training. One of the two staff members was in the process of taking the training while I was present.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. Staff members were on the floor with the children introducing them to activities. Children sat on their laps and they were nurturing and attentive. Staff members were enthusiastic during circle time and included all the children in the class in activities. They provided praise and encouraged the children to try new things. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. They were flexible with their schedules. I did see PBIS techniques being used in the rooms. Staff members used play to review shapes and colors. Child friendly music was playing in several rooms. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Vobr states her staff members bring several years of experience to the center. She states she has seasoned staff who have longevity, and they have low turnover.

Ms. Vobr states the staff members are always willing to take training.

Ms. Vobr states the staff members work together well and they have enough staff members to provide floaters for breaks and strong enough staff to step into any room where they are needed.

Ms. Vobr states that both parents and staff members like the use of ProCare for communication. Staff members can send messages and pictures.

Ms. Vobr states they have staff members participating in the TEACH and Wages programs.

Ms. Vobr states they have a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 3 that expires 04/30/23. They plan to apply for an IQ4K level 1.

The program added a nursing room for mothers who wish to nurse their children on site.

The classrooms and hallways are decorated with children's art projects and their pictures.

Ms. Vobr has her National Administrator Credential (NAC) and she is a NAEYC member.

The program installed cameras in each of the classrooms and in the hallways in August 2018. There are also cameras in the hallways, common areas and parking lot.

The classrooms are decorated with multiple art projects and visual cues to assist the children.

To maintain staff members, they offer them flexibility. They try to work around their children's activities and other schedules. Once a staff member is with the program for three years, they have a simple IRA they can match up to three percent. They provide staff members a bonus if they have any surplus funds at the end of the year. They work hard to keep it a fun and family environment. Staff members have been given a pay increase.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.