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

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Trailside **Enrollment:** 88 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52597

Street: 320 27th ST NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO Box 171, Palo, IA, 52324

Director's Name: Bethany "Bree" Hogue **Phone Number:** 319-210-7833

On-Site Supervisor(s): Courtney Clarke-Monroe **E-Mail:** Bree.Hogue@discoverchampions.com SSous@discoverchampions.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-06-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-01-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE:	X	**Child Care**	**Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**			
Financial Type:	X	Profit	Non-Profit	NA		
Accredition:	X	Accredited	NAEYC	NSACA	Other	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				140	140
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-23-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 09-16-2024

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

Not applicable. This is a new site which commenced operations 8/23/2024.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KCE Champions LLC operates multiple school-age childcare programs within the Cedar Rapids Community School District since 2022. Specifically, KCE Champions LLC @ Trailside commenced operations on 8/23/2024. KCE Champions LLC @ Trailside is located inside Trailside Elementary School which is part of the Cedar Rapids Community School District. The program primarily operates Monday through Friday before and after school hours 6:30am to 6:00pm. KCE Champions does have the ability to extend hours on scheduled early release days, emergency late start days, and emergency early-out days. During the summer, full days of emergency closing (example snow day), and some breaks (holiday and spring), this site has the ability to operate full days and/or combine for full days of care at another KCE Champions LLC location. KCE Champions LLC @ Trailside serves only school-age children. Current enrollment is 88.

Multi-site director Bethany "Bree" Hogue has been with the program since operations commenced in 2022. Ms. Hogue is completing an AA degree in early childhood education, has over 14 years of experience working in children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Courtney Clark-Monroe reported being an employee of Champions for over 2 years and being in the Champions supervisor role since October 2023. Ms. Clark-Monroe has an AA in medical billing and coding, experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 9/6/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KCE Champions LLC @ Trailside is located inside an elementary school in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of early learning and childcare opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KCE Champions LLC @ Trailside has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/champions/.

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..." KCE Champions LCC is a division of KinderCare Education. The history of how KCE Champions LLC came to fruition and evolved to present day (including 1969 KinderCare Learning Centers founded, 1998 corporate headquarters moved from Montgomery Alabama to present-day Portland Oregon, 2003 KCE Champions LLC joins KinderCare Education, 2013 KinderCare launches its Early Foundations proprietary curriculum) is impressive. KinderCare Education serves more than 186,000 children in 40 states, and Champions specifically serves more than 40,000 of those children in 21 states and Washington, D.C. Champions partners with principals, teachers, and parents to create more than 600 before- and after-school and year-round learning environments.

In 2021, KinderCare Education earned a fifth Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award - one of only four companies worldwide to receive this aware five years in a row. Champions has made a continuous commitment to earn and re-earn Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation.

Multi-site director Ms. Hogue has been with the KCE Champions LLC since commencing operations within the Cedar Rapids Community Schools in 2022. Management continues to report hiring staff who have prior experiences working with children. Management also continues to report having professional staff hiring and onboarding practices as well as holding regular staff meetings to review rules and policies while offering staff supports and appreciation.

KCE Champions LLC has established and is working to maintain optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has a parent-staff/program information center, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. In August 2024, KCE Champions LLC sponsored a "Champions Family Night" at Morgan Creek Park with food, face painting and more to welcome new and returning families to the 2023-2024 school-year.

KCE Champions LLC school-age curriculum focuses on six content areas that research shows enhance school-age children's growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in elementary school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness, healthy eating, and homework assistance (as needed) are part of the program's operations. There are additional opportunities offered for enrichment clubs and Junior Counselor leadership roles for older school-age students. Summer/extended breaks curriculum is also enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips.

KCE Champions collaborates well with many community partners including local school districts, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. The school kitchen provides all food items for the childcare program. There is an AED onsite. This program is located in a newly constructed school building which has many enhanced modern features. School building is in excellent repair. Childcare is located in an area of the building which is also storm rated/their tornado shelter.

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. The program has policies and procedures for handwashing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, on-site materials and furnishing were observed. Area of study included "Getting to Know You". Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families as they arrived for the morning's childcare. Activities observed included free choice (e.g. large gross motor games in the gym, free crafting, building, games of "Bop It"). Staff were observed conducting periodic face-to-name checks. Staff were also actively engaged with the children, provided positive redirection when needed and encouraged social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying the program.

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

109.9(1)d. A physical examination report. Personnel shall have good health as evidenced by a preemployment physical examination. Acceptable physical examinations shall be documented on Form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- One staff file reviewed (KL) lacked documentation of required physical exam. Management reported the physical is scheduled in October 2024.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to ensure staff either accompany the children to and from the gymnasium, hallways, restrooms, etc. or position themselves in a manner to see them coming and going from these areas.

A full license is issued. 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.