Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids West-Westridge Elementary

Provider No.: 41578

Address: 5500 EP True Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz

On-Site Supervisor: Clarissa Solis

Phone Number: 5156335018

E-Mail: kunza@wdmcs.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/22/2026

Licensing Period: 12/01/2026 to 12/01/2028

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 09/23/2025

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. West Des Moines typically does these inspections annually. For licensing, these are required at least every three years.

**Report Visit Type:**

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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| HOURS: | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Tuesday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Thursday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Friday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 150 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

A licensing inspection was conducted on 10/22/26. The director and on-site supervisor were both present throughout this inspection.

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 Westridge is a school-age program located within the Westridge Elementary School in West Des Moines. Within the building, the center uses the gym and cafeteria (community room). The center also has access to the outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open under HHS (formerly known as 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 - 8:55am and after school hours are 3:55pm - 6:00pm (with the exception of early out days). Full day programming is 6:30am - 6:00pm. The center uses their own learning curriculum with children. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 96 children.

The center is overseen by a Board and owned by the West Des Moines School District. Ashley Kunz is the director of this program and the seven other Kids West programs. Ashley has a Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working in child care which includes being the director over several related programs at the same time. Clarissa Solis is the on-site supervisor at this location. Clarissa was previously working at another Kids West program. Clarissa has an AA degree.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

NUTRITION: The center provides an AM snack and a PM snack to children through the West Des Moines School District's nutrition program. Lunch is also provided through the West Des Moines School District's nutrition department during the summer months. For no school days during the school year, children are responsible for bringing in their own lunches. The center will store these lunches accordingly. All food storage was sufficient. The food menu is posted for the month and met CACFP requirements.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contacts with the school district and take a bus to field trip destinations. Parents authorize field trips annually when updating their children's paperwork. For all field trips, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is now entirely fenced in. Bolts along the gates and fence corners will need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. There is a new climbing structure and swing area that has field turf for surfacing. There are two other climbing structure areas and swing area that have mulch for surfacing. There is a work order for one of the climbing structure's rope climbers. Finally, there is a large grassy area and a blacktop area on the playground. The building and some trees provide shade. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

At the time of the inspection, all children were outside on the playground and in different areas of the playground mentioned above. Staff were observed spaced out and interacting and supervising the different groups of children. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more challenging child behaviors, All eight Kids West programs have a behavioral specialist on staff who rotates between the eight programs. Staff are taught to know when they may need a short break. Teamwork between staff is stressed. Staff review expectations with children throughout the year. Communication between staff, staff and children, and staff and parents is stressed.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

There is a secure entrance into the school during programming hours.

A nutritionist reviews all meal items. The West Des Moines School District provides most of the meals year round.

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

A staff person sits at a "communication desk" by the main parent board to greet parents and children and to ensure children are signed into/out of the center.

There is a lot of storage space the center has access to.

The playground is very large with a large variety of activities children can choose from.

All eight Kids West programs have the same procedures, handbooks, substitutes, etc. and operate in a similar manner.

The director has quarterly meetings with other directors of before/after school programs in the western suburbs. Kids West on-site supervisors also have weekly meetings with each other. At this site, all-staff meetings are held weekly.

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

Staff were actively engaged with kids and their activities. Staff were spaced out on the playground when children were outside playing.

The director and on-site supervisor feel they have a good group of staff working under them. Staff work well together.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Enrollment remains steady.

The center uses the application "DoJo" for further communication with parents.

The Kids West programs have a behavioral specialist who work between the eight programs on a daily basis.

A new playground structure with field turf for surfacing was installed over the past year. The playground is also now fenced in.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

109.9(1)b: 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.
One staff member did not have a physical in their file. It was noted that a new physical is already scheduled for next week.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
One staff member is past due for recertification in First-Aid/CPR. This is also in the process of being scheduled.

**4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance**

N/A.

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located in a school and only serve school-age children.

I-Power was again discussed at the inspection. Staff should continue to update all training certificates/hours.

As noted above, a work order has been placed for one part of a climbing structure in need of repair.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

Date: 10/23/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.