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

Name of Center: Kountry Kids Child Care **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50778

Street: 200 12th Street **City:** Harlan Iowa **Zip** 51537 **County:** Shelby

Mailing Address: 200 12th Street, Harlan, IA, 51537

Director's Name: Mindy Gordon **Phone Number:** 712-235-2411

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kountrykids@fmctc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 12-28-2020

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	10	15	37	30	92
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 02-14-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Kountry Kids Child Care on 2-8-2024. The center is run by a board and opened under the new name/ownership on October 1, 2019. Mindy Gordon became the director on January 3, 2024. The center offers child care services to infants to school age children Monday through Friday 5:45 am to 6:00 pm.
There are 100 children enrolled in the center.
I met with Mindy during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
Infant room - no children were present today due to illness.
1 year old room - eight children were present, the children were taking a nap.
2 and 3 year old room - twelve children and two staff present. During nap time in the 2 and 3 year old room it was too dark preventing direct observation of the children. You must be able to have direct observation of all children. Make sure it is light enough to see the children's faces and chest rise - breathing.
3 year old side of room - six children and one staff. The children were taking a nap.
Preschool room - The children were having fun playing in the activity centers. The room had lesson plans. Improvements have been made in the room, it is more organized and has fun activity centers of science, discovery, dramatic play, blocks, sand etc.
Please remove the push pins/tacks from the room as they are a health and safety hazard - children may put them in their mouth if found on the ground. (Make sure push pins/tacks aren't in any program rooms hall ways etc.)
The school age children were at school during my licensing visit.
The center began using a new curriculum called Buttercups for the younger children and Fireflies for preschool age children. The curriculum provides books and supplies.
The Brightwheel child care app is used.

Nutrition:
The center employs a cook who prepares breakfast and snacks. Treat America/Company Kitchen delivers the daily lunch.
The center participates in the federal food program. Menus were posted. Appropriate food storage was observed.

Health and safety:
Fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented for 2023 and they need to start practicing and documenting them for 2024.
Radon testing is due in May 2024, four radon tests were completed in May 2022 the test results were in the acceptable range. Radon testing is required every two years and test results must be under a 4.0 pCi/L.
Staff reported proper medication management procedures are practiced when a child is prescribed medication.
The center is using bleach/water for sanitizing and disinfecting and they are also using Oxivir Tb for disinfecting. Staff reported bleach/water is mixed in the kitchen at opening time each day. Please make sure you are following the mixing instructions on your specific bottle of bleach, if the directions aren't on the bottle you need to refer to the website listed on the bottle. Oxivir Tb is used for disinfecting at diaper changing tables and bathrooms. The center disinfects everything each night with Oxivir Tb i.e. tables, hard surface toys etc.

Playground:
The center has a very nice outdoor play area. The center installed a new fence around the entire outdoor play area in the fall of 2023.
Monthly playground safety inspections were completed in 2023 please begin completing the monthly playground inspections for 2024. You can state on the playground safety inspection if you not using the playground due to inclement weather

Transportation:
The school bus provides transportation for the preschool age children. The center has a fifteen passenger van. The center provides transportation to school for school age children in the morning. The van is used for field trips.

Administrative records:
Five staff files were read and were in good order.
Child files were read and were in good order.
The center has an active board that meets monthly.
I recommend that you have staff meetings on a regular basis.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Your center is an excellent resource to the community. Mindy Gordon became the director in January 2024, she is very excited to be the director, she is enthusiastic about the program. Pam Klinkefus (previous director) is very committed to the center and she will help at the center cooking and other duties as needed.

The center would like to apply for IQ4K.

The center receives grants. The center installed a new fence around the entire outdoor play area in the fall of 2023 and they would like to make other playground improvements.
The center would like to remodel, adding additional space for the school age program.

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

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented for 2023 and they need to start practicing and documenting them for 2024.

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.
Please remove the push pins/tacks from the room as they are a health and safety hazard - children may put them in their mouth if found on the ground. (Make sure push pins/tacks aren't in any program rooms hall ways etc.)

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Additional concerns: During nap time in the 2 and 3 year old room it was too dark preventing direct observation of the children. You must be able to have direct observation of all children. During nap time make sure it is light enough to see the children's faces and chest rise - breathing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 10-1-2023 to 10-1-2025.

Off year licensing visit 2-8-2024.

*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.