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

Name of Center: At Home Education Services dba Kinderhaus **Enrollment:** 27 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51119

Street: 1148 4th ST SE **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 911 N Madison AVE, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Kelsey Determan **Phone Number:** 641-425-7079

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kinderhausmc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-16-2024

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:** 08-20-2024

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

Date Inspected: 08-23-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA X Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			33		33
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-23-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Kinderhaus Preschool on 09-16-24 where I met with lead teacher and program director Kelsey Determan. Kelsey is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor degree, and experience in Early Elementary Education and has been the director since since the program opened in 2020. The program is located in a commercial storefront building that has been renovated to house the preschool program at the front of the building. The center provides preschool programming only in two classes over 3 sessions. One class operates in the morning with a 5 day session, and 3 day session, and the other class operates 3 days a week in the afternoon. There are currently 27 children enrolled in the program between the two classes with 14 in the AM session 6 of which attend daily and the rest only 3 days, and 13 children in the afternoon session. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

As noted the program moved to a new location and this is the initial review for that location. The building is a commercial storefront located in the downtown area of Mason City. Kelsey does own the building and makes use of the front half for the preschool program, and the rest of the building is used for other family owned businesses. The area used by the preschool program is separate and does have secure entry to limit access. Large windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light and a view of the outdoors. There are two doors providing direct egress to the exterior and both exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restroom facilities are located directly off the programming space with additional sinks in the classroom to facilitate handwashing.ngs. The restrooms also serve as emergency storm shelters. There is a small kitchenette area with cabinets, a refrigerator, and sink but no cooking appliances. The room has a large open design that makes use of shelving and furnishings to define activity centers which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

Activity centers included math, art, language, practical life, science, culture exploration, and group learning among others. A copy of the daily schedule was posted, and the curriculum plan is provided to parents via a communication application and in a newsletter which is posted at the center. The program follows a Montessori approach which allows children to engage in self-interest explorational learning with guided questioning and focused presentations. An overarching theme focus is used to help guide the class with the planned theme of "Getting To Know Each Other" being presented on the day of my visit. Good interactions were observed with both teachers working with the children, talking to them about their play, and reviewing learning concepts. Kelsey does use a proactive positive behavior support model in the center using transition cues, guided reminders, and helping children identify positive choice options. Both teachers used calm and encouraging tones when speaking to children to create a positive and nurturing atmosphere.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. First aid kits are maintained in the classroom and taken out to the playground when the children go outside and are stocked with items sufficient to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners, purses, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in an area where they were not accessible. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers reminding the children to wash their hands and ensuring they did so in an effective manner. During the visit one child did have a bloody nose and the teachers did implement practices such as gloving, first aid application, and universal precautions when assisting the child and cleaning up afterward. Due to the limited hours of operation medications are not routinely administered but policies are

in place should it be necessary.

Due to the limited hours of operation the program does not serve meals but snacks are provided. A copy of the planned menu was posted on the day of my visit and identified a good variety of nutritious snack options. The snack menu follows a weekly option and includes options such as fresh fruits, crackers, dairy options such as cheese or yogurt, and peanut butter. The snacks are available throughout the time the program is in operation and children are allowed to choose what they want, and when they want the snack. This does lead to some increased risk for disease transmission as children may handle several different food items, and tables may not be properly sanitized before/after children sit down to eat. As noted the program does have a small kitchenette with a refrigerator. Good food storage practices were observed for dry pantry items but the refrigerator/freezer unit does need to have thermometers installed to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained.

The center does not have an outdoor play space at this but does have an area of a paved parking lot that Kelsey is considering installing fencing or other barriers to define a playground area. In the meantime the center does have an agreement with a neighboring business which has a large outdoor area the children can use. The area is a large green space that is enclosed but a stone wall with gated entry. There is an area with grass, an area with paved walkways, a rougher wooded area, stream fountain, and covered gazebo's. The center does take cones to define the areas where the children can play, and also takes out materials such as balls and step climbers for the children to play with.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. The children's files were reviewed and contained all required information though some are still working to obtain a current physical. Staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required information though it was noted that Kelsey needed an updated physical but which she reported having a scheduled appointment for the following week. With having just completed the renovations of the building inspection logs and certificates for the Fire Marshal, fuel burning appliances, and other mechanicals were current. The center will need to conduct Radon testing within the next year. The center handbooks were previously reviewed and all required policies were present.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has participated in the IQ4K program in the past which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and Kelsey did confirm that she does plan to recertify with that program at the new location.

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

109.15(5)a: Sufficient refrigeration is provided appropriate to perishable food.
-- All refrigeration/freezer units used to store child food items must have a thermometer present to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.