Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: University Kids LLC

Provider No.: 48205

Address: 111 DeSoto RD, Van Meter, IA, 50261

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Tayler Sorensen

On-Site Supervisor: Joann Hanson and Brooke Boston

Phone Number: 5159969141

E-Mail: Directoruniversitykids@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/08/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/04/2026

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years for licensing requirements.

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	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	12	11	16	23	62
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 4/8/26. The director was present throughout the majority of the inspection (she was in ratio for the first part of the inspection) and the owner was present for a portion of the 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.

University Kids is a center in Van Meter that was given permission to open on 1/3/17 under new ownership and a new name. Hayley Carlson purchased the center from the previous owner. The center serves children ages six weeks in age through mostly five years in age although a few school-age children also attend because they have younger siblings who attend. The center utilizes their own learning curriculum in their teachings that are based off of the Creative Curriculum. There are two levels to the center and a total of five classrooms.

Tayler Sorensen is the director as of 10/2021. Tayler has an AA in Early Childhood Education and has past experience working in child care. The on-site supervisors as of 2/2026 are Joann Hanson and Brooke Boston. Both individuals have taken professional development training and have enough experience working in child care to meet the qualifications for the position.

During the inspection, infant children were observed napping in cribs, eating in high chairs, and engaged in tummy time/free choice play. Toddler children were observed in free-choice play in their classroom. The other three classrooms were outside playing on the playground at the time the inspection took place. Toys, cots, cribs, tables, and other equipment

are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily. Staff and several children gave specific answers when questioned as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

NUTRITION: The center serves an AM snack, lunch, and PM snack to children. Meals are eaten in the classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs and high chairs. The center has a full-time cook and a full kitchen. All food storage was sufficient with the exception of one freezer needing to be wiped clean as something had spilled previously.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has a van to transport preschool children to school and to also use for field trips. Regular maintenance is performed on the van. A first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along for all transportation needs.

PLAYGROUND: The center has a large playground space that is divided up into three sections based on ages of children. The playground is entirely fenced in.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The director felt she has a good group of staff. Staff work well together.

The director is organized.

The center was clean and smelled clean. There is good, natural lighting throughout much of the center.

The center has a good mix of new and tenured staff.

The center has a Facebook page. The center also uses an electronic app (Child Pilot) to communicate with parents of all children enrolled throughout the day. Parent teacher conferences are also held. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in their children's activities.

Good staff and child interactions were again observed in all areas.

The center has a full-time cook.

The director attends meetings regularly with other area directors through CCR&R.

The center has good community partnerships in the Van Meter area. The center has several volunteer opportunities they participate in throughout the year (staff and children).

Within the past year, the center has purchased a new washer and dryer. Once a year, there is also a "Super Saturday" to do a deep clean of the center.

Enrollment remains steady.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
One staff did not have the required number of professional development hours needed for 2025.

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.
The same staff member as above is past due for Mandatory Reporter recertification.

109.10(1): Medications: The center shall have written procedures for dispensing, storage, and authorization, and recording of all prescription and non-prescription medications. Staff must be over 18 to administer medication.All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are

inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name. For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given. For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription. Staff shall not provide medications to a child if pre-service/orientation training for medication management has not been completed.
There was one diaper cream that was not labeled with the child's name.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
1. More wood chips are needed under swings and at the bottom of slides in several areas.
2. The Bungee cord that was an issue a couple of years ago was again observed on the fence to hold the gate in place. The Bungee cord needs to be removed. Other alternatives were discussed.

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
The carbon monoxide detector on the main level was missing. The one on the lower level was present and functioning. Because there are two levels to the center, two carbon monoxide detectors are needed.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
The refrigerator in the toddler classroom needs to be cleaned out as something had spilled.

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

The below standards at this year's inspection should be corrected as soon as possible and be maintained.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed 3/16/23 - 3/24/23. Because radon levels came back below 4.0, the center doesn't have to test again for radon until at least 3/2028. If radon levels remain below the 4.0 cutoff, radon testing can remain every five years. If 4.0 or higher, they will need retest and then go back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection on file was from 4/23/25 so it is again coming due soon. The director stated this is scheduled for 4/21/26.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. As mentioned at last year's inspection, staff should continue to upload their training certificates if it is not automatically uploaded for them. Any staff no longer employed with the center should be unlinked from the center in I - Power as well. The center has had more conversations with their CCR&R consultant in regards to IQ4K.

As mentioned at last year's inspection, it is recommended outdoor playground mats be purchased and placed at the bottom of the slide and under swings of the climbing structures. This will help preserve wood chip depth and surfacing.

The center mentioned again installing cameras to classrooms. This consultant would support and recommend that decision. This consultant would also recommend not having a live feed on the camera system.

The lower level classroom schedule should be moved so it is located next to the lesson plan.

It is recommended that in the child enrollment and annual update forms that permission for infant blankets in cribs be removed. Children under 12 months of age cannot have blankets, stuffed animals, wedges, pillows, etc. in cribs with them.

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Date: 04/09/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.