Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids West-Fairmeadows Elementary

Provider No.: 41574

Address: 807 23rd ST, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

County: Polk

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz

On-Site Supervisor: Kim Schwab

Phone Number: 5156335018

E-Mail: fmkidswest@wdmcs.org
kunza@wdmcs.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/26/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/05/2024

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires fire marshal inspections to be done at least every three years. West Des Moines typically does these inspections more frequently.

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/26/25. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

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 Fairmeadows is a school-age program located within the Fairmeadows Elementary School in West Des Moines. The center predominately uses the gym, cafeteria (community room), media center, and outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open by HHS (formerly known as DHS) 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 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 her Bachelor's degree and has past experience working in child care which includes being an area director for several programs. Kim Schwab is the on-site supervisor. Kim has her Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working for Kids West and child care in general.

During the visit, children were observed in the cafeteria and outdoor playground area. In the cafeteria, children were divided into smaller groups and playing with the learning stations made available to them. Some children were playing with blocks. Some children were playing with dramatic play toys/clothes. Several children were drawing and coloring. Equipment is sanitized daily. Outside, children were again divided up into smaller groups and playing on the playground. Staff were spaced out supervising and interacting with children. Children gave specific answers to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There are quarterly director meetings with other, similar programs within the western suburbs. In addition, there are weekly team lead meetings for all of the Kids West programs. There are also weekly staff meetings held at this site.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

A nutritionist reviews all meal items.

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

The center has a good working relationship with school personnel.

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.

An electronic attendance tracker (Eleyo) is used to keep track of the number of children present. Classroom DoJo is another electronic app used for extra communication with parents.

Staff pictures are posted near the main parent board.

The on-site supervisor is organized and received high praise from the director.

The on-site supervisor stated she felt staff worked really well together.

A new playground structure was installed over the past year.

The center has a lot more storage space now with the new additions.

Kids West programs have a behavioral specialist they hired who works among the eight Kids West programs.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
One staff member was not fingerprinted.

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
The same staff person as above has not yet completed all of the above. Certificates were not in the file nor on I - Power.

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

The staff mentioned above will need to be fingerprinted next week (9/28/25 - 10/4/25) as well as complete the initial trainings missing.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

For field trips, the center contracts with the school district for transportation.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

For nutrition, the school district provides the AM snack, PM snack, and lunches during the summer months. For no school days during the school year, children/parents are responsible for providing their own lunch.

I- Power was again discussed at the visit. Staff will need to upload training certificates.

It is again recommended that outdoor playground floor mats be purchased and placed on the ground under the swings and bottom of slides to help with the wood chip surfacing from becoming insufficient. One area under a swing had the black under tarp exposed which creates a potential hazard.

Date: 09/29/2025

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**.