Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KinderCare West #291

Provider No.: 24451

Address: 310 Burdette DR SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

County: Linn

Director's Name: Iyanna Batte

On-Site Supervisor: Morgan Siems

Phone Number: 3193965391

E-Mail: 300291@klcorp.com
iyanna.batte@kindercare.com.

HHS Visit Date: 01/27/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/07/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: NAEYC accredited 7/2/2024 to 7/1/2029
  NAEYC Program ID: 292849

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	Year-round	School-Year	Summer Only
Sunday			
Monday	6:15 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:15 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:15 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:15 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:15 AM to 6:00 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	26	31	38	10	105
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. was founded in 1969 and has grown to become one of the largest providers of childcare in the United States. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. is currently primarily owned by Partners Group a Swiss private equity firm as well as other shareholders and investors. KinderCare licensed childcare centers are a division of KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. and included as a core brand along with KCE Champions LLC and The Creme School. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to KinderCare West #291 which is a profit center operating since April of 1979. KinderCare West #291 offers licensed childcare M-F 6:15am-6:00pm for children age birth through school-age. This license also includes a 4yo statewide voluntary preschool program offered on-site M-F 8:00am-11:30am in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 72 on 1/27/2026.

Regional Leader of KinderCare West #291 is Yohance Horne who is based in Oregon. District Leader of KinderCare West #291 is Rachel Ross who is based in Iowa. The specific Iowa qualified director of KinderCare West #291 is Iyanna Batte. Ms. Batte has been employed with KinderCare since 2023, has been the director of this location since August of 2025, has experience working with children and participates in professional development. The specific Iowa qualified on-site supervisor (OSS) of KinderCare West #291 is Morgan Siems. Ms. Siems has a BA degree in elementary education, has experience working with children, has been the OSS of this location since January of 2026, and participates in professional development.

On 1/27/2026, program space was observed. Since the last review, classrooms were rearranged, some new room carpet-rugs were added, and a new calming corner was established for 2yo children. Primary programming occurs in age defined classrooms. The building has sufficient restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate enrolled children. The center

has an on-site kitchen and outdoor play area. The areas of study during the week of this license visit were "Light and Dark" and "Sky and Weather". Evidence of previous days' work included very noteworthy displays of child art in the preschool room (e.g. sweater art, winter trees, winter wonderland, snowman creations)! Curriculum on the day of the monitoring visit allowed for a variety of experiences (e.g. skilled crafts, book reading, block building) that piqued child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation and child choice. On 1/27/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included infant cares, lunch time rituals (e.g. Very smooth 2yo lunchtime transition!), and routine transitions. On the day of this monitoring visit, children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of this KinderCare is "…to provide programs and environments that enrich children's development, promote respect for children, and celebrate the joy of childhood".

KinderCare West #291 has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the https://www.kindercare.com/our-centers/cedar-rapids/ia/300291

As of 1/27/2026, the management team of KinderCare West #291 (e.g. Mr. Horne, Ms. Ross, Ms. Batte, Ms. Siems) continues efforts to create and maintain systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and secured in a confidential manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Local as well as national KinderCare sites continue to collaborate on the sharing of materials, curriculum, ideas/planning, and professional growth training. KinderCare West #291 also reports having additional supports from NAEYC accreditation and CACFP participation. Ms. Batte discussed efforts to revamp storage of administrative items.

As of 1/27/2026, KinderCare West #291 was found to be maintaining the required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. The vestibule area was found to have refreshes and updated communications for families and visitors. Curriculum continues to include a combination of learning strategies incorporating KinderCare's unique curriculum, teacher-created ideas, social emotional learning, early academics, assessments, and physical activity. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events, themed days, seasonal parties, and enrichments.

KinderCare West #291 continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily child contact, hand washing, diaper changing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff and management were able to verbalize how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. On 1/27/2026, management discussed how they have continued support from KinderCare executive management as well as a multi-site KinderCare maintenance-custodial person who is also responsible for daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. including KinderCare West #291 have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. KinderCare West #291 has successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.

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

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provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
- There is evidence of water intrusion (e.g. stained soiled ceiling tiles). Remedy to help prevent any possible mold growth.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Ensure all highchairs on-site have safety straps which are required to be engaged when in use.

Please add outdoor picnic tables for children to sit and rest when needed as well as engage in outdoor learning centers, partake in picnic snacks, etc.

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook states "Loose-fill surfacing materials should be avoided for playgrounds intended for toddlers or children who frequently place objects in their mouths." Loose fill outdoor playground surfacing is a choking hazard. As a result, licensing requests you remove the loose fill from the infant and toddler outdoor play area or create a separate outdoor large gross motor area for this age group.

Please review rule 109.15(5)c which states "Sanitary methods for dish-washing techniques sufficient to prevent the transmission of disease". Heat sanitizing occurs when water temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit has contact with dishware. Licensing strongly recommends larger centers have access to a commercial grade dishwasher, as well as a 3-compartment-sink (for larger pans/dishware) to help ensure proper cleaning and sanitizing of all dishware.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 02/18/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.