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

Name of Center: Kids Korner Childcare **Enrollment:** 15 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16652

Street: 300 West Garfield St, STE A **City:** Laurens Iowa **Zip** 50554 **County:** Pocahontas

Mailing Address: 300 West Garfield St. STE A, Laurens, IA, 50554

Director's Name: Kristi Shannon **Phone Number:** 712-841-5437

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

Date(s) of Visit: 07-02-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 11-29-2023

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	8	16	20	15	59
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-11-2024

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 Kids Korner Childcare center on 07-02-24 where I met with Kelsey Ruthart as the center director Kristi Shannon was not in. Kristi took over as the director of the program at the end of November, 2021and is fully qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood care and education. This program is located in the local elementary school but is overseen by a separate board of directors. The center provides daycare programming for infants through school age children. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the facilities and classrooms remain essentially the same as in prior reports. The center makes use of two classrooms with primary programming in one room on the lower level for infants and toddlers, and one on the upper level for preschool and school age children. Each room was observed to be clean. There were some minor maintenance needs with some that did not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern such as damaged paint and drywall. Others did need to be addressed immediately which included damaged and missing electrical switch plates and outlet covers that allowed access to the energized wires. This issue was cited in the prior licensing report and continued to be present at the time of this visit. In addition the hot water temperatures for hand washing sinks were measured to be 136.2 deg. F. and need to be adjusted so that it is no more than 120 deg. F at the spigot when only the hot tap is open. It was identified that the school maintenance department would be responsible for any corrections to physical facilities concerns and these were communicated to the school superintendent who stated she would ensure that they are corrected. The infant/toddler room is divided into two areas by a movable fence system with one side for infants and the other for toddlers. There is also a small room off the infant side that serves as a sleeping room for the infants. The space does have several exits including one that provides direct egress to the outdoors. The room does have a large counter with multiple sinks so that one can be used for hand washing and the other for food preparation. Restrooms are located outside the classroom space off a main corridor in the school, and changing stations are available in the toddler space, and infant space. The other classroom is located on an upper level and again restroom facilities are located outside the classrooms off the main corridor. The room used for primary programming for the preschool and school age children does have windows that provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each classroom makes use of low shelves, furniture, and play structures to define activity centers. The arrangement is such that all areas of the rooms are readily visible with no blind areas.

The activity center available do increase in both number and complexity as would be appropriate for the developmental level of the children present. This includes options of large/small manipulatives, art/craft, and reading in all rooms, and adding dramatic play, puzzles/table games, math/science, media, and group learning for older age groups. Each activity center provides the children with room to move and play. Toys and materials in the classrooms were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children of the intended use groups. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were not present on the day of my visit. While it was obvious that the center was following a planned schedule and staff were engaged with the children there were some issues noted. This included all of the children being combined in a single group in the gymnasium when I arrived including an infant, and a 2 year old with the preschool and school age children. While there was ample room for the children to play, and Kelsey was essentially providing 1:1 care to the infant these groups should be separated. Having the children combined does result in several concerns. First it does increase the

risk of injury to younger children who may not be able to react quickly to the more energetic play of the older children, or with older children who may want to treat younger children as "living dolls". Secondly it did result in a situation where the infant was placed in a saucer as a way to increase safety for the child but the duration of time was such that the use of the equipment ceased having any benefit for developmental growth and instead became a substitution for supervision for the staff. Later when the groups separated and returned to the classrooms the two year old and infant were combined into the same space due to decreased attendance. This was a better option in that the two children were closer in developmental abilities and Kelsey was able to provide more direct care that allowed the infant to engage in floor time and other activities. Good behavior management techniques were used with the teachers providing redirection and using "thank you/no thank you" reminders to identify appropriate and inappropriate choices.

Good health and safety practices were generally in place but some issues were observed. I was not able to observe a diaper changes during the time of my visit, and in addition the required diapering procedures posting was not present. A copy of the required posting was sent to the center and all staff that engage in diapering procedures will need to review and follow the steps of that posting. Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands and that they did so in an effective manner following restroom use. Over the counter medications were labeled with the name of the individual to who whom it belonged. The center does not have any children that are currently taking any prescription medications or which have any diagnosed allergies but does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible to the children. First aid kits were present and sufficiently stocked to address most common first aid needs.

The program does not have a separate playground space but can make use of the school playground areas. There are climbing structures with one area that is appropriate for school age children, and one that is appropriate for preschool age children. These structures were not reviewed during this visit but will be reviewed at a later date during a visit with another program housed in the building that makes more regular use of the facilities and any issues will be addressed at that time. It is noted that the school does provide all maintenance for the playground.

Breakfast and Lunch are prepared by the school cafeteria during the school year, and snacks are prepared by the program. During the school year the children do eat in the school lunch room during the same time that the school age children eat but they sit at separate tables that are sized to their needs. The teachers do sit and eat with the children. During the summer the program has made use of the School Summer Lunch Program but in the past but that program was changed to being a "pick-up" site meaning that the daycare was unable to participate. As a result the center has been preparing lunches on their own. A copy of the planned menu was not present on the day of my visit but the staff did identify that they would be serving cold sandwiches. Good food storage practices were followed however it was noted that the thermometer in the refrigerator was non-functional and needs to be replaced.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A full review of files could not be made given that Kristi was not in on the day of my visit. The center did have a binder of parental contact and authorizations which was available for the children and all of those records were reviewed and found to be current for all children. In reviewing staff files Kristi had provided a document for the prior visit which did identify that the background checks and training certificates were still valid for staff but a couple were due to expire soon and will need to be renewed. Training certificates were also reviewed in the I-Power training and database systems and it was confirmed that on-going training was being completed. Inspection logs and certificates were available in a binder and all were available and up to date. The center policy handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center does provide a valuable service to the community and does appear to have maintained stability with regard to child enrollment and staffing.

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

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.
-- The missing electrical cover plates need to be replaced. The hot water needs to be reduced so that it does not exceed 120 deg. F. at the spigot when only the hot water tap is open. Postings for diapering procedures must be present by all diapering

stations.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
-- A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were not present on the day of the visit.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
-- A copy of the planned menu was not posted. Functional thermometers need to be installed in all refrigeration/freezer units.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.