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

Name of Center: Kingdom Kids of St. Olaf **Enrollment:** 110 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52070

Street: 239 N 11th ST **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 239 N 11th ST, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Kathy Dencklau **Phone Number:** 515-576-2103

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sherri Morud, Keely Draper **E-Mail:** daycare@stolaffd.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-15-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-11-2024

Comments : NOTE: The fire certificate is a temporary approval that requires corrections. The certificate is valid until 05-01-24

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X 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	23	16	82	18	139
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-22-2025

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 Kingdom Kids of St. Olaf center on 04-15-25 where met with the center director, Kathy Dencklau. Sherri Morud and Keely Draper will be assistant directors/on-site supervisors. All are well qualified for the positions they hold based on their experience, education, and on-going training in early childhood care. The program is located in the St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge and occupies classrooms on several levels of one wing of the church. The program is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program initially opened in 2023 providing limited services for after school programming for school age children only and expanded in 2024 to provide full range 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 operation of the program remains the same as in the prior visit. The program uses space on three levels of the building with infants and 2 year old children housed on the ground level, 3 year old children housed on the basement level, and 4 year old and school age children housed on an upper level. There are 13 rooms available for use by the center but several are not being used at this time. The center has one room for younger infants, one for older infants, and separate rooms for the age groups of 2, 3, 4, and school age children. The infant and two year old rooms have direct secondary egress from the classrooms to outdoors. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Those rooms also have access to restrooms directly from the programming space as well as changing stations and secondary sinks for handwashing. Restrooms for the older age classrooms are located outside the classrooms off the main access corridors. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and for those on the ground and upper levels a view of outdoors. Each room was observed to be clean. One significant maintenance issue was that the water temperatures varied between rooms with measured temperatures ranging from 101.2 to 138.2 deg. F. Kathy did confirm that each room has a separate heating element for the sinks and it was reviewed that water temperature should not exceed 120 deg. F. at the spigot when only the hot water tap is turned on. Each classroom is arranged with activity centers created by the placement of furniture and play structures which did not create any blind areas. Activity centers were stocked with toys and materials that were generally in good repair and appropriate for the children present in the classrooms but some issues were noted. There were items that would be considered choking hazards in rooms with children under 3 years of age, and items marked as promotional items for food vendors in older age classrooms. It was reviewed that these needed to be removed, and how to identify these items. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule, and planned curriculum posted.

Good interactions were observed during the time of the visit with all of the teachers being actively engaged with the children attending to their needs, playing with them, or presenting the planned curriculum. Examples included the infant room where the teachers had posted "Goals Of Care" for each child such as helping the child sit-up or walk. In other classrooms the teachers were implementing the curriculum with craft activities, teacher led group discussions, and later in the day when students from the high school came to help the program with a center wide gardening activity. All staff were observed use tones of voice that ranged from calm to excited depending on the activity and classroom expectations. All staff used positive tones, and word choices when speaking to the children. The center as a whole makes use positive behavior support approaches to behavior management such as the use of routines, reminders of expected behavior, transition activities, and redirection were all implemented in a manner that there were no behavioral issues. In addition teachers, and

Kathy also engaged in guided problem solving, and talking with children when they did have issues. Ratio was maintained in classrooms as required by age with most classrooms having at least two teachers present.

Health and safety policies and practices are in place and range from being good implementation to others needing to be reviewed. I was able to observe several diaper changes during the time of the visit and some staff followed established procedures and others did not. Concerns included staff not degloving between handling soiled and clean items, holding children while using chemical cleaners on the changing station, and using a bleach water product labeled as a sanitizing agent. The staff that prepares the solution was not available to provide information on the dilution ratio. Kathy did provide information on a chart provided by the Clorox brand website of using 4 tsp bleach per quart of water as being the dilution ratio used. One other issue that was noted both with cleaning changing stations, and when using a cloth to wash children's hands before meals it that the staff used the same cloth multiple times rather than getting a clean cloth for each cleaning, or for each child. Chemical cleaners, medications, and personal belongings were stored where they were not readily accessible to the children. Allergy and other special health care instructional guides were posted in classrooms for those children that needed them. Safe sleep practices were followed for those children under 1 year of age. Older infants were observed to have blankets and other items in cribs and while safe sleep requirements only apply to children under 1 year of age it is not recommended to introduce these items into cribs as they can still gather around the face or result in other concerns. Older children did make use of cots with appropriate cover sheets and bedding. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and had a good variety of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Phones with emergency contact information was present on the day of my visit.

The center does make use of the church kitchen but maintains separate food storage facilities. Good food storage practices were observed for both dry pantry and refrigerated items. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no indication of insect or rodent infestation. Good food handling and service practices were observed with the teachers wearing food service gloves, and using measured scoops when portioning meals. A copy of the planned menu was posted and was consistent with the meal provided. The children eat in their classrooms and while the teachers did not eat with the children they did provide supervision at the tables. One issue that was observed in the 2 year old classroom was that one child dropped an item on the floor and picked it up. While another teacher in the room but a removed location did tell the child it was yucky and not to eat it a teacher sitting at the table with the child did not respond to prevent the child from eating the food item that had been dropped. While this was identified as a newer employee the center does need to review with staff what the expectations of care are in various situations.

The center does have a large outdoor playground area. Due to the high commercial nature of the setting the playground is fully enclosed by fencing. There were areas along the north perimeter of the fence where the ground had settled creating a gap between the fence and the ground that was more than 3 1/2 inches but less than 9 inches which would be an entrapment hazard. Additional dirt needs to be added, or the fence modified in some manner to address that concern. The playground has a large commercial grade climbing structure which was observed to be in good repair. A unitary pour in place fall surfacing is used beneath climbing structures. There is a paved riding track, activity centers, and additional toys available for the children to play with. Large shade structures are present and were donated by a local dermatologist.

In reviewing administrative records the required postings for No Smoking, Consultant Contact information, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and the License Certificate were posted. While most were posted by the main entrance the License Certificate was posted in the center office. Kathy stated that a copy had been posted by the door but there had been recent weather events with high winds and she suspected that it had been blown off the wall and she would replace it. Required postings for hand washing, diapering, and emergency evacuation were present in all areas currently being used for child programming with the exception of the diapering station on the lower level by the bathrooms. The center is currently using the Playground record and communication application to enroll and track information. The system does have an option to conduct a self-audit which identified 10 children's files that needed an initial or updated physical though it is noted that all of those expired within the past month. In reviewing staff files a random selection of 25% of the files were reviewed and all were found to contain all required information. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current. Kathy it has been previously confirmed that the carbon monoxide detection is integrated into the fire alarm system. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has seen significant growth over the past year with doubling the number of enrolled children following the renovation and expansion of the center a year ago.

The center has developed a very strong focus on curriculum and helping children build skills and grow. In addition to the example previously noted for the infants the preschool/school age classroom curriculum was another excellent example identifying a general focus theme with specific activities to support fine and gross motor skills such as dot art projects, and yoga activities, to other skills such as cognitive and social interactions. The materials in the room were selected to reflect

the general theme with regard to the books, and other materials that were kept in activity centers. In addition the program has a strong faith based component to the curriculum for all age groups with both formal chapel time, and the teachers listening to a radio station playing religious themed music.

Kathy did identify that the center as a whole is also expanding activities with doing a garden project where the children will plant seeds, and later they will plan to use the produce as part of their meals, and donate fresh produce to a local food bank.

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.
-- Water temperatures in sinks used for hand washing needs to be reduced for those that exceed 120 deg. F. when measured at the spigot with only the hot water tap turned on. Additional dirt or adjustment of the fence on the north side of the playground is needed to reduce the gap at the base of the fence which creates an entrapment hazard.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Toys marked as promotional items for food vendors are prohibited and need to be removed from all classrooms. Items and toys with parts that can easily break off which are less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classroom serving children under 3 years of age. Low areas along the fence exceeding 3 1/2 inches but less than 9 inches are considered entrapment risks and additional dirt, or modification of the fence is needed.

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: Notice was received from Kathy via e-mail on 04-16-25 that a contractor had been contacted and appointment made to adjust the hot water temperatures on 04-23-25. Kathy confirmed that staff would provide careful supervision and assistance when children were washing their hands until that date.

*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.