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

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51884

Street: 4343 Marilyn DR NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO Box 583, Solon, IA, 52333

Director's Name: Paul Pressler **Phone Number:** 319-488-9028

On-Site Supervisor(s): Madison Blanchett **E-Mail:** paul.pressler@discoverchampions.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-30-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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: 09-21-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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				50	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-05-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KCE Champions LLC operates multiple school-age childcare programs within the Cedar Rapids Community School District since 2022. Specifically, KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School is located inside Pierce Elementary School which is part of the Cedar Rapids Community School District. The program primarily operates Monday through Friday before and after school hours 6:30am to 6:00pm. KCE Champions does have the ability to extend hours on scheduled early release days, emergency late start days, and emergency early-out days. During the summer, full days of emergency closing (example snow day), and some breaks (holiday and spring), this site has the ability to operate full days and/or combine for full days of care at another KCE Champions LLC location. KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School serves only school-age children. Current enrollment is 45.

Multi-site director Paul Pressler has been a multi-site director since April 2024. Mr. Pressler has a MA degree in educational leadership, over 10 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Madison Blanchett. Ms. Blanchett has prior experience working with children and continues to participate in required annual training hours.

On 5/30/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School is located inside an elementary school in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of early learning and childcare opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KCE Champions LLC sites have established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://www.discoverchampions.com/.

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..." KCE Champions LCC is a division of KinderCare Education. The history of how KCE Champions LLC came to fruition and evolved to present day (including 1969 KinderCare Learning Centers founded, 1998 corporate headquarters moved from Montgomery Alabama to present-day Portland Oregon, 2003 KCE Champions LLC joins KinderCare Education, 2013 KinderCare launches its Early Foundations proprietary curriculum) is impressive. KinderCare Education serves more than 186,000 children in 40 states, and Champions specifically serves more than 40,000 of those children in 21 states and Washington, D.C. Champions partners with principals, teachers, and parents to create more than 600 before- and after-school and year-round learning environments.

In 2021, KinderCare Education earned a fifth Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award - one of only four companies worldwide to receive this aware five years in a row. Champions has made a continuous commitment to earn and re-earn

Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation

Paul Pressler has been with Champions since fall 2023 and began to fill the multi-site director role in April 2024. Management continues to report hiring staff who have prior experiences working with children. Management also continues to report having professional staff hiring and onboarding practices as well as holding regular staff meetings to review rules and policies while offering staff supports and appreciation.

KCE Champions LLC has established and is working to maintain optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has a parent-staff/program information center, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. On 8/16/2023, KCE Champions LLC sponsored a "Champions Family Night" at Morgan Creek Park with food, face painting and more to welcome new and returning families to the 2023-2024 school-year. Enrollment for summer 2024 "Champ Camp" is underway. A calendar of 2024 summer activities was posted on-site and included field trips to the swimming pool, movie theater, Fun Station, and bowling as well as on-site experiences incorporating "Mystery in Wildlife at Night".

KCE Champions LLC school-age curriculum focuses on six content areas that research shows enhance school-age children's growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in elementary school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness, healthy eating, and homework assistance (as needed) are part of the program's operations. There are additional opportunities offered for enrichment clubs and Junior Counselor leadership roles for older school-age students. Summer/extended breaks curriculum is also enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips. KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce has daily access to the school stage and part of the school cafeteria.

KCE Champions collaborates well with many community partners including local school districts, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. The school kitchen provides all food items for the childcare program. There is an AED onsite.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures for handwashing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, on-site materials and furnishing were observed. Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families as they arrived for the morning's childcare. Activities observed included free choice (e.g. crafting, movie on laptop, chess, lego building, dominos). Staff were actively engaged with the children, provided positive redirection when needed and encouraged social graces. A system of "tickets to earn prizes" was observed to help encourage positive choices while at Champions. One child was seen giving Ms. Blanchett a hug and stated "I love spending so much time with you Maddie". Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying the program.

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

109.8(2)f: Two adults are present more than 8 children are on the premises.
- There was only 1 staff with 8 children on the premises for a short time before additional assistance arrived. Licensing and management discussed how the program is not to accept more children in at any given time than the program has staff to accommodate.

109.9(1)e: 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.
- Staff file reviewed (MB) lacked documentation of current first-aid and CPR. For a short period of time, no staff on-site had documentation of current first-aid or CPR. Management reported renewal of MB's first-aid and CPR training will occur in July 2024.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
- Child file reviewed (GC) lacked documentation that was signed and dated annually as well as an updated IDPH Certificate of Immunization. Management reported they will speak with GC's family and obtain updated paperwork.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please ensure the posted lesson/curriculum plan has the current week's dates on it rather than just a week with number(s). To do otherwise, makes it difficult to know if the posted lesson/curriculum plan is current.

Please ensure there are cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting supplies on-site and that each is properly labeled (e.g. name of product, manufacturer use instructions).

Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

Please note an administrative change. Management initially reported this program has daily access to much more space in the school building than what's actually occurring during childcare hours. Currently, the program has daily access to the entire school stage and part of the school cafeteria. As a result, total capacity has changed to 50.

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

*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.