Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Wallace Elementary

Provider No.: 42081

Address: 6207 NW 62nd Ave, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Steve Conlan

On-Site Supervisor: Charity Johnson

Phone Number: 5152528490

E-Mail: sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 02/11/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/05/2025

Comments: Johnston/Grimes Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

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	548	548
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 2/11/26. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present for this inspection.

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, which included observation of staff files from another, already inspected Kids Connection program.

Kids Connection - Wallace Elementary moved into the old Johnston Middle School starting in the 2018-2019 school year. This is one of five Kids Connection programs. Children who attend this school attend this program, although that changes some in the summer months where children are divided up by age/grade between the five programs. The program is open year round. During the school year, children can attend 6:30 am - 8:30 am and/or 3:35 pm - 6:00 pm. During the summer months and no school days, children can attend 6:30 am -6:00 pm. The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teaching of children. Total child enrollment at this time is 119 children.

Steve Conlan is the director of this program and the other four Kids Connection programs. Steve has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Specialized Social Studies. He has worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Charity Johnson is the on-site supervisor. Charity has a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and has also worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Both individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

This program uses the cafeteria and the two gyms, as well as two playground areas.

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During the inspection, all of the children and staff were outside on the playground enjoying the nice weather. Staff were spaced out supervising and interacting with children. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily.

NUTRITION: The center always provides the PM snack. Throughout the year, the school provides breakfast to children. During the summer months as well as No School days, children are responsible for bringing in their own lunches. The center will store the lunches as needed. All food storage in the kitchen area was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school district to take a bus and school bus driver for all field trips. Field trips are generally taken during the summer months and during breaks throughout the school year (Spring Break, Winter Break, etc.). A first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are also taken along for all field trips.

PLAYGROUND: The center is currently only using one of the playgrounds. This playground area consists of climbing structures, swings, and a blacktop area. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Walkie-talkies are used by staff to communicate with each other. There is also a staff "greeter" by the main parent board for children coming and going, as well as a hall monitor to ensure the children are where they need to be. The entrance to the center is secure.

Staff members wear center shirts, sweatshirts, and/or badges that make them more easily identifiable.

This center is one of five Kids Connection centers in Johnston. All five centers have the same director, policies, handbooks, etc. There is continuity.

The center has a website through the school district and sends out monthly newsletters to the parents.

The director of these five programs has roughly quarterly meetings with directors of other school district before and after school programs. In addition, on-site supervisors of these five programs meet with the director for meetings every other week. Then individual centers have all staff meetings several times throughout the year.

The center has a strong working relationship with the school.

The center incorporates different themes and projects throughout the year and has events for parents to attend.

The Kids Connection programs take care of their employees which include, but are not limited to higher wages, potential opportunities for benefits, incentive programs, a recognition program, etc.

The Kids Connection programs have good community supports from other businesses, local colleges, etc. There is a real sense of partnership.

The Kids Connection programs have several staff that were once children in these programs themselves.

Enrollment is steady.

The on-site supervisor is the most tenured of all the Kids Connection on-site supervisors and has also participated in the Iowa After School Alliance Training.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

No below standards were identified at this year's inspection.

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

N/A.

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental tested because they are located in an actual school building and only serve school-age children. However, they still do radon testing.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit. All staff will need to have profiles and be uploading training documentation.

Date: 02/12/2026

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**.