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

Name of Center: KinderCare West #291 **Enrollment:** 84 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24451

Street: 310 Burdette DR SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

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

Director's Name: Amanda White **Phone Number:** 319-396-5391

On-Site Supervisor(s): A4manda White **E-Mail:** 300291@klcorp.com
Amanda.White@kindercare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-27-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 02-08-2023

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: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other 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	26	31	38	10	105
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 01-31-2025

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KinderCare West #291 is part of the national KinderCare Education enterprise. KinderCare Learning Centers (KLC) were founded in 1969 and have continued to provide childcare programming for over 53 years. KLC provides educational programs for children from six weeks to 12 years old. These nationwide educational programs include over 1,000 early childhood education community centers, over 500 before-and-after school programs, and over 100 employer sponsored centers in 38 states and the District of Columbia. KinderCare Education enrolls approximately 200,000 children and employs approximately 30,000 people nationwide. This report pertains specifically to KinderCare West #291. KinderCare West #291 has been in operation for many years. KinderCare West #291 operates year-round, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. The profit program serves primarily infants through preschool-age children. Current enrollment is 84.

Director of KinderCare West #291 is Amanda White. Ms. White has been the director of this site since November 2022. Ms. White has been with KinderCare for over 8 years including being the assistant director/on-site supervisor since December 2019. Ms. White has a BA degree in biology, several years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 1/27/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KinderCare West #291 is located in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of full-time and part-time learning opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KinderCare West #291 has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: http://www.kindercare.com/our-centers/cedar-rapids/ia/300292.

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 a history of participating in quality initiatives including a national accreditation, QRS, CACFP and local quality initiatives. The program has achieved NAEYC accreditation through 2029, holds a QRS 4-star and participates in CACFP. Ms. White discussed future goals of continued participation in quality initiatives including IQ4K.

Director Ms. White has been an employee of KinderCare for over 9 years, and prior to moving into the director position in November 2022, had been the assistant director/on-site supervisor for almost 3 years. Congratulations! The KinderCare West #291 management team (e.g. Regional Leader Christiane Moore, District Leader Rachel Ross, Director Ms. White) is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. White continues

to discuss the collaboration that is done among local as well as national KinderCare sites that allows for a sharing of materials, curriculum, ideas/planning, professional development and various cohorts.

KinderCare West #291 has some seasoned staff as well as hired a few new ones. Staff throughout the classrooms reported celebrating 13 years, 5 years and one year of employment with KinderCare. Ms. White discussed how KLC offers retention incentives, teacher appreciation/acknowledgment, teacher "biography" area, anniversary treats, a staff break room, KinderCare's "First 100 days" onboarding, continued family/staff referral/incentive program, continued no cost staff educational development, and continued partnerships with the TEACH and WAGE$ programs. Ms. White reported having 1 staff currently enrolled in the KLC's CDA program and 2 staff currently participating in Wage$. Ms. White talked about having a really good team of employees indicating she has been traveling more with the company and the team has stepped up when she's needed to be away.

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

KinderCare West #291 continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources (e.g. unique "Grow Me App"), and supports family programming activities. The program does offer family events throughout the year including open houses, parent/program conferences, access to family ambassadors/teams, and program/parent "Care Calls". Ms. White discussed how they have really great families enrolled and acknowledged how hard her staff work. Ms. White reported how their program received much favorable feedback from a recent staff and family engagement survey.

To help ensure the building remains sanitary and hazard free each day, KinderCare has maintenance persons (e.g. indoor and outdoor) who assist in maintaining the property. Kitchen remains sanitary. The center chef has been with the program for 2 years and a new seasonal winter menu has just been introduced. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum includes a combination of learning strategies incorporating KinderCare's unique curriculum, teacher created ideas, social emotional learning, early academics, and physical activity to nurture healthy bodies, happy hearts, and growing minds. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events, themed days, seasonal parties and enrichments (e.g. cooking, STEM, music, phonics). Communication between children and staff is done verbally, with picture cues, and through sign language. Ms. White discussed future curriculum goals and how they are excited for new updated curriculum to be released summer 2025.

KinderCare West #291 collaborates well with community partners including the local school districts, early access persons, local businesses, CCR&R, other childcare programs/directors, NAEYC administration and health professionals. KinderCare West #291 continues to partner with the Cedar Rapids Community School District to provide a 4-year-old statewide voluntary preschool program as well as receive some transportation services.

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 supplies as well as policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning checklists and closing duty reminders were found in various areas of the center

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were observed to be nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Music could be heard gently playing throughout the building. Topics of study throughout the center included The Farm, the letter "M", and light and dark. Activities observed included infant cares and nap time routines (e.g. cot spacing, required nap materials). Staff were observed to be engaged in light and deep cleaning duties (e.g. mopping floors, scrubbing child furnishings, cleaning-dipping toys) as well as curriculum planning while children napped. The children appeared to greatly enjoying their designated nap time!

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

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
- Some of the classroom secondary exits were not clear of ice and snow.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please review rule 109.6(2) "...The on-site supervisor is required to be present when the program has multiple sites or when a director is not routinely present for six hours daily. The center director must identify a person in charge during the on-site

supervisor’s absence. The on-site supervisor is responsible for the daily supervision of the center and must be on site daily either during the hours of operation that children are present or a minimum of six hours of the center’s hours of operation. Information shall be
submitted in writing to the child care consultant prior to the start of employment..."
- Since the company has increased Ms. White's traveling, please obtain and identify a qualified on-site supervisor (OSS) for when she is away from the center.

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The program's license remains in full status. 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.