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

Name of Center: Kids Spot Daycare **Enrollment:** 77 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16081

Street: 114 N Michigan ST **City:** Lake City Iowa **Zip** 51449 **County:** Calhoun

Mailing Address: 114 N Michigan ST, Lake City, IA, 51449

Director's Name: Allison Mernka, Rebecca Smith **Phone Number:** 712-464-3053

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kidsspot@wccta.net

Date(s) of Visit: 08-31-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 09-09-2019

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	21	14	23	14	72
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-11-2023

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 Spot Daycare on 08-31-23 where I met with the center director, Allison Mernka. Allison took over as a co-director of this program in late 2020, and was joined by Rebecca Smith who became a co-director in early 2023. Both are well qualified for the position based on their experience and on-going training. This center is located in an old medical office in Lake City and is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The center provides daycare to infants through school age children. There are approximately 77 children enrolled in the program served by 12 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms has changed since the last visit due to a substantial remodel and construction of an addition. The addition included new construction of a 3 year old classroom, and school age classroom. The remodel reduced the available square footage of the infant room, added direct secondary egress doors to all classrooms, and renovated the outdoor playground space. With the construction of a new school age room the center is no longer using the lower level classroom that had previously served as a school age space and which will now be used for storage and emergency storm shelter. The rooms are based on age groups with younger infants in the remodeled infant room, and older infants in the room previously used by the 2 year old. The 2 and 3 year old children will make use of larger open central room spaces. The preschool children will be in one of the new construction rooms, and the school age children in the other. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation.

Each room makes use of furniture and play structures to define activity centers which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Activity centers were well supplied with toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum was posted for each room. The center was engaged in a quiet/nap time during the visit. Good interactions were observed with staff in classrooms with napping children being observed to be sitting by the children to provide supervision, and rubbing their backs in a soothing manner. For classrooms with older children, or children that did not want to nap the teachers did have quiet activities such as coloring available for the children. Later in the visit when the quiet/nap time was over the staff were observed to be engaged with the children attending to their needs and implementing the planned curriculum. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. During the visit I was able to observe a couple diaper changes. The teacher did follow the posted procedures but did not wash the child's hands until being asked if that is routinely done.
The employee stated that she did, but had just forgotten on that day due to the change in routine with the visit occuring. Safe Sleep practices were followed for infants under 1 year of age. For those children making use of cots the center does need to provide bedding for cots that include some kind of sheet or cover which can be removed and laundered. One other issue that was noted is that some of the classrooms where children were napping were darkened to the point where there was insufficient illumination. It was reviewed that rooms need to have enough illumination that staff can observe a child regardless of where the staff and child are positioned and be able to determine if the child is in distress and needing assistance. The illumination needs to be such that an individual coming from a brightly lit hallway or other area does not

have a period of momentary blindness where they could step on or trip over a child. Prescription, and over the counter medications were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children, but not all were labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Chemical cleaners, purses, and other items labeled as keep out of the reach of children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. Good cleaning practices were generally observed with the staff waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. First aid kits are maintained and contain a good supply of materials to address most common first aid needs.

Meals are prepared on site in a small kitchen area. Good food storage and handling practices were observed in the kitchen during the time of my visit. All food items were stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after having been opened, and were labeled. A menu is posted and identifies a good variety of nutritionally appropriate meals. Meals and snacks are served in the classrooms. I was able to observe a snack service and while the teachers did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the tables.

The center playground has been completely renovated. A large climbing structure has been installed and was observed to be in good repair. A unitary pour in place foam rubber product is used for fall surfacing and does cover the full of the playground. The playground is fully enclosed by chain link fencing. In addition to the climbing structures there was a variety of toys including balls, push toys, riding toys, etc. which were observed to be in good repair though some older toys were showing their age and nearing the end of their useful life. Awning shade structures have been installed.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings for no smoking, consultant contact, mandatory abuse reporting, and the center license were hung in an area that was readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Emergency evacuation postings with both diagram and written instructions for fire and tornado were not posted by all exits from all programming spaces. The center is using the Playground data management and communication program for record maintenance. This program does allow the center to run reports and track information that is missing or expired. A random sample of files were selected for review the the entered data was accurate. The center identified 5 files that needed a renewed physical. While that same program has the ability to maintain employee records the center was still primarily using a hard copy system. A review of half of the staff files and compared to the self-audit completed by the center which was found to be accurate. The self-audit and review identified 1 file that needed documentation of current Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter training, and one that needed current 1st Aid/CPR training.
Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required elements except Emergency Drills, and Fuel Burning Appliance inspections. The emergency drill logs did not document drills being conducted for October, November, and December of 22 and it is noted that the would have been during the transition of directors. The drill logs for 2023 were current for both fire and tornado drills. The last fuel burning appliance inspection was dated from October 2021. While the systems would have been tested and inspected with the renovations the center does need to ensure that all fuel burning appliances are inspected annually and this should be completed prior to the start of the heating season.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has seen significant changes in the past year with new administration, renovation of the building and playground, and implementation of an electronic record maintenance system. The building renovations have provided additional room for the children expanding the licensed capacity and bring all children onto the ground level. Safety was also improved during the renovation with adding direct secondary exits to all classrooms.

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

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.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
-- Not all over the counter medications were labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

-- Documentation not maintained for Oct-Dec 2022. Evacuation notices were not present by all exits from all programming spaces.

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.
-- Some classrooms were observed to have insufficient lighting during nap time to allow staff to be able to observe children and determine if they were in distress and need of assistance.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Last available documentation was dated 10/21.

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.
-- Bedding is required for all cots. Changing pads with torn or worn covers exposing the foam core need to be replaced.

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 issued cited as not meeting licensing standards and anticipated date by which corrections will be completed. 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.