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

Name of Center: Koalaty Time Encore **Enrollment:** 248 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25466

Street: 2500 NW 128th St **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50323 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2500 NW 128th Street, Urbandale, IA, 50323

Director's Name: Jan Castagnoli **Phone Number:** 515-278-5220

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cortney H, Katelyn C, Alyxis B, Lexi H, Emily V **E-Mail:** jan@koalatytime.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-17-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-15-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-30-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	82	24	154		260
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-18-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 2/17/25. The owner/director was present throughout the visit as were several on-site supervisors at times.

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 (both playgrounds), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Koalaty Time Encore opened in January of 2006. Jan Castagnoli is the owner and director and has been since this center opened for business. Jan has been in the field for many years and has owned other centers at different times throughout her career. This is the only center she now owns and operates. There are five on-site supervisors. They are Cortney Hougham, Katelyn Cox, Alyxis Beltz, Lexi Harvey, and Emily Valberg. All individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

This center serves children ages six weeks in age to five years in age using their own learning curriculum which incorporates math, phonics, cite words, and S.T.E.M. There are a total of 18 classrooms located within several pods of the center. All but two classrooms were in use on the day of the visit.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities. Some children were observed eating lunch. Some children were observed washing their hands. A diaper change was observed by staff. In some classrooms, it was nap time and children were observed napping either on mats or in cribs. Sufficient cot spacing and lighting was observed. Some children were engaged in large group activities being facilitated by staff. One child was observed being bottle fed. The center looked and smelled clean.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. There is a lot of longevity with some of the tenured staff. The owner believes her staff work well together and communicate well with parents. Staff questioned stated they enjoy working at the center and working for Jan because it is like a family environment. Staff stated they enjoyed working with children. Jan stated she makes it a point to highlight good work by her staff in a variety of ways. There are incentive programs in place for staff. The owner/director and staff have good relationships with the families they serve.

Enrollment remains steady.

There is a camera system in classrooms and outdoor playground areas and parking lot. There is a secure entrance into the building. The camera system was upgraded within the past year.

There is an indoor gym when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

The center participates in drama, tennis and a soccer programs. There are other agencies who regularly visit the center to provide activities for children.

The center employs a full-time cook.

The center is very clean and nicely decorated.

The center is very large, yet has averaged between 98% - 100% on their immunization audits for the past several years in a row. Their last audit in 1/2025 they received a 99%.

Good child and staff interactions and activities were again observed.

The center has a website where additional information can be found. They also are using the on-line application, Lillio, to communicate with families. There is an internal communication system used by staff called Bamboo.

Job responsibilities between the director and on-site supervisors are divided up where there is one staff focused on daily classroom safety, another staff organizes files, another on curriculum, etc.

The curriculum used by the center is detailed.

The center has a therapy dog.

Kindergarten children have learning assessments completed throughout the year.

Additional cleaning is done by a company (Microb X).

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

109.12(4): Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.
In several classrooms, the blankets/sheets between children and the sleeping mats they were on were insufficient.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 11/25/22 - 11/27/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 9/9/24.

As previously mentioned, for transportation/field trips, the center does not transport. For field trips, the center brings in different agencies and organizations for presentations to the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. Staff will need to be consistently uploading their training certificates/hours if they aren't automatically uploaded from I - Power trainings. Staff no longer employed at the center should be un-linked.

The playgrounds were observed, but not up close at this year's visit due to the bitter cold and amount of snow cover on the ground.

Best practice is that Boppy pillows not be used in infant classrooms. Alternative equipment was discussed.

*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.