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

Name of Center: Creative Kids Company - Vinton **Enrollment:** 41 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52511

Street: 308 E 13th Street **City:** Vinton Iowa **Zip** 52349 **County:** Benton

Mailing Address: 203 Cottage ST, Shellsburg, IA, 52332

Director's Name: Meredith Zuspann & Kelsey Fish **Phone Number:** 319-893-4540

On-Site Supervisor(s): Holli Lewis **E-Mail:** creative.kids.vs@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-15-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-23-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-13-2024

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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					0
Summer	0	0	46	37	83

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-03-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/15/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Creative Kids Company in Vinton. I met with Meredith Zuspann, a co-director. Kelsey Fish is the other co-director. They are the new owners of this program. It was formally Vinton Early Learning Center School Age program. They took over ownership and started caring for children on 06/03/24. Ms. Zuspann has a BA in education for K-8 and a MA in teaching and reading. She has been employed as an elementary teacher since August 2009. Ms. Fish has a BA in elementary education and a MA in educational leadership. She has an expired administrator's license. She was an elementary teacher for ten years and is now an induction coach for Grant Wood AEA. Holli Lewis the on-site supervisor. She has a BA in business administration. The program employs eleven staff members. There are typically four staff members on site at one time.

The program operates out of Tilford Elementary School in Vinton. It operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. They currently serve school-aged children but will also begin serving preschool children this fall. There are currently 41 children enrolled.

The program is currently operating out of the cafeteria and an art room. They use the gym when they cannot go outside. An inspection of each space was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The school is constructing a new wing on the school and when it is completed Creative Kids Company will occupy three of the rooms for childcare. They will provide childcare to preschool children all day during the school year.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks/Lincoln Logs, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, dramatic play, art, and magnets. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The children are typically divided into two groups during the morning hours of operation to make it more manageable. The groups then rotate between the cafeteria and art room. They are on the playground area together. They also participate in several field trips during the summer months. A school bus is used for transportation.

Curriculum is developed by the teachers. A lesson plan was posted. A daily schedule was posted.

The program mostly uses the bathrooms outside of the cafeteria. The girls' bathroom has four toilets, and two sinks and the boys' bathroom has two toilets, two urinals and two sinks. Handwashing procedures must be posted in both locations. There are additional bathrooms in the school if necessary.

The program is using the Playground app to communicate with parents and they keep electronic staff and children files in the app.

The staff members use their cell phones to communicate, and emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program

doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and art room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Monthly playground inspections are currently not being completed. This must occur. Radon testing, a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector have not been necessary because the program is exempt from environmental assessments as a before and after school-age program located in a public-school building. However, the program is going to begin providing care for preschool children in August 2024. Because of this, you must conduct a radon test in the three program rooms you will be using, get a fuel burning inspection of all gas appliances in the school and have a carbon monoxide detector on site. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/13/24.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follow the guidelines. They receive a free breakfast and lunch through the Summer Meal Program in June and July. The center provides an afternoon snack. In August the center will provide breakfast and an afternoon snack and parents will pack a cold lunch for their children until school starts. The school cafeteria workers are present during the summer and serve the children. Menus were available for review. Disposable products are used so there are no dishes. Food items on hand were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program uses Members Mark Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the art room. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The letter giving the center permission to open without a license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program uses the fenced in school playground. This is a large, spacious area. In one area there are rubber tiles for fall surfacing. There are big gaps between the tiles, and they are starting to curl. Ms. Zuspann states the school has purchased pour in place fall surfacing to replace the rubber tiles and they plan to install it yet this summer.

There is a shade structure with picnic tables and a bench. There are also trees for shade. There are multiple large pieces of climbing equipment with several activities including slides and climbing walls. There is a web climber. There is also smaller equipment with slides. There are teeter totters, balance beams and a concrete area with basketball hoops.

There is another area where woodchips are used for fall surfacing. There are swings, monkey bars, a zipline and a web climber. Additional woodchips were recently purchased but still need to be spread out on the area.

The school is going to develop a playground for the preschool children near the new addition.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide any emergency dental contact information. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. There were not immunization records for any of the children.

I reviewed two staff files. One staff member had a current physical but it was not on the mandated HHS employee form so it is invalid. Make sure when you are making copies of the fingerprint results that you do not cut off the date at the top of the page,

Staff members had amazing teamwork. They moved around the program space to provide careful supervision and to interact with all the children. They offered the children choices and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Staff members were nurturing and offered children who were upset one on one time to talk about their feelings. Staff members were enthusiastic and offered the children praise. They were also patient and used positive redirection when necessary. There was good communication between staff members. The children appeared to enjoy their time in the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Zuspann states they have dependable and knowledgeable staff members.

Ms. Zuspann states they follow a structured routine but are also flexible and good at figuring out a Plan B when necessary.

Ms. Zuspann states their schedule allows for a balance between structured activities and free choice.

Ms. Zuspann states they have a good relationship with the school. They have good communication.

Ms. Zuspann states they provide a full day of fun and activities, including field trips, to keep the children occupied. She

states they like to keep the children busy.

The center rotates out centers every two weeks and they have a large supply of activities.

Ms. Zuspann states they try to bring in a guest speaker every week. They plan a craft to go along with the speaker and the theme.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff member had a current physical but it was not on the mandated HHS employee form so it is invalid.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 8
There were not immunization records for any of the children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The current capacity of the program is 83 children with the use of the cafeteria and art room. When they move to the three newly constructed rooms this fall their capacity will be 71 children within the classrooms. Two of the rooms have a capacity of 23 children and one room has a capacity of 25 children. However, they will also be using the gym for program space at times so they wish to keep the capacity at 83 children.

*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.