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

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 90 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51885

Street: 441 W Post RD NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52405 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO Box 39, Swisher, IA, 52338

Director's Name: Mona Williams **Phone Number:** 319-504-3408

On-Site Supervisor(s): Bethany Bree Hogue **E-Mail:** monawilliams@discoverchampions.com knorrick@discoverchampions.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-09-2023

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: 02-17-2022

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: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other 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			171	10	181
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-23-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 01-13-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

During 2022, KCE Champions LLC is opening 27 new childcare programs throughout Linn County. Specifically, KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center commenced operations on 8/23/2022. KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center is located inside the Truman Early Learning Center which is part of the Cedar Rapids Community School District. The program primarily operates Monday through Friday before and after school hours 6:30am to 6:00pm (current full days of preschool M-Thurs, with full days of childcare F). KCE Champions does have the ability to extend hours on scheduled early release days, emergency late start days, and emergency early-out days. During the summer, full days of emergency closing (example snow day), and some breaks (holiday and spring), this site has the ability to operate full days and/or combine for full days of care at another KCE Champions LLC location. KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center serves primarily preschool-age children but has the ability to also serve school-age children as needed. Current enrollment is 90.

Multi-site director Mona Williams has an AA degree, over 15 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. Multi-site co-director Bethany "Bree" Hogue is completing an AA degree in early childhood education, has over 14 years experience working in children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On the day of the monitoring visit, a substitute Champions on-site supervisor was assisting while Champions is actively seeking a permanent on-site supervisor.

On 1/9/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center is located in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of early learning and childcare opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/champions/.

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..." KCE Champions LCC is a division of KinderCare Education. The history of how KCE Champions LLC came to fruition and evolved to present day (including 1969 KinderCare Learning Centers founded, 1998 corporate headquarters moved from Montgomery Alabama to present-day Portland Oregon, 2003 KCE Champions LLC joins KinderCare Education, 2013 KinderCare launches its Early Foundations proprietary curriculum) is impressive. KinderCare Education serves more than 186,000 children in 40 states, and Champions specifically serves more than 40,000 of those children in 21 states and Washington, D.C. Champions partners with principals, teachers, and parents to create more than 600 before- and after-school and year-round learning environments.

During 2022, KCE Champions LLC opened 27 new childcare programs throughout Linn County. Management reported Iowa made Champion history in that Linn County had the largest number of Champion childcare sites opened in any given state within such a short timeframe.

In 2021, KinderCare Education earned a fifth Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award - one of only four companies worldwide to receive this award five years in a row. Champions has made a continuous commitment to earn and re-earn Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation. Management reported future goals include participation in state and local quality initiatives including IQ4K.

The management team (e.g. Ms. Williams, Ms. Hogue) has remained consistent. KCE Champions LLC has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure, confidential manner. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. It's evident they are taking great pride in being able to offer new childcare programming throughout the community and in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Community School District.

Management continues to hire professional staff (e.g. educated, trained, experienced) who have prior experiences working with children and display a strong worth ethic. KCE Champions LLC provides professional staff hiring and onboarding and holds regular staff meetings reviewing rules and policies while offering staff supports. KCE Champions LLC has participated in college hiring fairs to find persons with a passion for and/or professional desire to work with children. Ms. Williams and Ms. Hogue express much gratitude towards their team of employees being proud of their flexibility and willingness to help out in various capacities as needed.

KCE Champions LLC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Management discussed having a KCE Health and Safety Team with telephone hotline and acknowledged how each staff is trained on emergency preparedness.

KCE Champions LLC continues 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, and supports family programming activities. In fall 2022, a family night for all Champions locations was held at Morgan Creek Park with an estimated 550 families participating in the welcome event.

KCE Champions LCC curriculum focuses on six content areas that research shows enhance preschool-aged children’s growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness and healthy eating are also part of operations. Summer/extended breaks curriculum is also enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips. 2022 summer field trips included trips to the local nature center, Bloomsbury Farm, local parks, local swimming pools, bowling, local movie theater, mini golfing, and snap-ology. Summer camp 2023 enrollment is currently underway!

KCE Champions collaborates well with many community partners including the Cedar Rapids Community School District, Kids on Course, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. KCE Champions LLC @ Truman Early Learning Center has a solid partnership with the Cedar Rapids Community School District. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. The school kitchen provides all food items for the childcare program. There is an AED onsite.

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, policies and procedures for hand washing as well as cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles, cozy corner, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed included center experiences and indoor/gym large gross motor play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

- Staff file (AC) reviewed lacked documentation of completed first-aid, CPR, UP, MART, and Essentials.

109.6(6): Record checks.
- Staff files (AC, KS) reviewed lacked documentation of results of a national record check evaluation.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
- Documentation that a monthly outdoor playground inspection had been completed was not found.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure required postings are updated (e.g. lesson plans, menu).

Ensure every staff is aware of any enrolled child that has a special health need (e.g. food allergy, asthma, diabetes, seizures). Each staff shall know where the child's written health plan as well as any possible rescue medication or equipment is located. Staff shall ensure any child with a special health need has all required items present each day s/he is in attendance.

Staff discussed child elopement concerns. Licensing strongly recommends a doorbell or chimes be attached to main entrance/exit doors as well as storage closet doors to help alert staff to any opening or closing of doors.

Licensing observed much uninstalled outdoor playground equipment as well as unfenced open space behind the school building. Ensure preschool-age childcare children are using only the outdoor play space that is fully enclosed/fenced. There are two outdoor areas which are entirely enclosed (outside the preschool room and outside the school cafeteria). Ensure preschool-age children have access to loose materials that can be easily transported to and from these enclosed outdoor areas.

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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.