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

Name of Center: Kids West-Jordan Creek Elementary **Enrollment:** 126 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 41575

Street: 4105 Fuller Rd **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3550 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Amy Dvorak **Phone Number:** 515-633-5018

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jordyn Lashley **E-Mail:** jckidswest@wdmcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-02-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-22-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-17-2022

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	150	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 10-02-2023

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 10/2/23. The on-site supervisor was present for this visit.

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, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review (a few staff files from this program will be reviewed at another Kids West program visit). The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Kids West Jordan Creek is a school-age program located within the Jordan Creek Elementary School in West Des Moines. The center predominately uses the gym and cafeteria (community room) but they also use a music room as well as the outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open by HHS (formerly known as DHS) on 8/22/14. Previous to this date, the center was under the Department of Education's supervision. There is a before and after school component as well as a full-day component during the summer and no school days. Before school hours are 6:30am - 8:55am and after school hours are 3:55pm - 6:00pm (with the exception of early out days). Full day programming is 6:30am - 6:00pm.

The center is overseen by a Board and owned by the West Des Moines School District. Amy Dvorak is the director of this program as well as the seven other Kids West programs. Amy has her BS degree in Elementary Education and has been an employee of Kids West for a number of years. Jordyn Lashley is the on-site supervisor of this program. Jordyn has past experience working in child care and has taken a number of professional development training to meet the qualifications for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the outdoor playground area. Good staff - child interactions and conversations were observed and overheard.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is a secure entrance into the school during programming hours. Parents have to enter a code to gain access.

A nutritionist reviews all meal items.

Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate throughout different areas used by the center.

The center has a good working relationship with the school.

A staff person sits at a "communication desk" in the cafeteria entrance to greet parents and children and to ensure children are signed into/out of the center.

Typically, children get three credible food items for snack when only two are required to be served.

Weekly team lead meetings are held. This center has monthly all staff meetings. In addition, the director meets quarterly with other directors of before/after school programs in the western suburbs.

Staff pictures are posted.

There is a focus for children to get any homework completed they may have received during the day.

Good staff-child interactions were again observed among the different groups of children and staff.

The on-site supervisor stated staff work well together.

A new playground structure has been installed within the past year.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
In regards to supervision on the playground, staff need to be better spaced out among the grassy areas, blacktop area and climbing structure area. Staff also need to be better positioned for children coming inside from the playground and going outside to the playground at the doors used by the program.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located in a school and only serve school-age children.

For transportation for field trips, the center contracts with the school district for a driver and a bus.

IQ4K and I-Power were previously discussed with the director.

It was noted that the older climbing structure is not used during program hours because the bridge area is in need of repair. The program has put in a work order.

*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.