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

**Name of Center:** Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc **Enrollment:** 119 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19260

**Street:** 404 N Pine St **City:** West Union Iowa **Zip** 52175 **County:** Fayette

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 1, West Union, IA, 52175

**Director's Name:** Mary O'Kones **Phone Number:** 563-422-5379

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Hunter Berg **E-Mail:** kkcc.office@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 10-14-2024

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-04-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 12-16-2021

**Comments :** Compliance on 01/05/22.

**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 | 17 | 24 | 48 | 30 | 119 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Becky Frost **Date:** 10-17-2024

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 10/14/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc. in West Union. I met with Mary O'Kones, the director. Ms. O'Kones has a BA in psychology and she is a NAEYC member. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). Hunter Berg is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher in the three-year-old preschool room. He has an early childhood diploma and a paraeducator certificate. Mr. Berg is in charge when Ms. O'Kones is away from the center. There are currently 27 staff members employed by the center.

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center originally opened August 8th, 2007, in the United Methodist Church in West Union. They started in their new location 01/05/15. The center is a community non-profit program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are infants through school-age. It offers a three-year-old preschool program during the school year that operates on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. There are currently 119 children enrolled.

The program utilizes the following classrooms: infant room (six weeks through eighteen months old), toddler room (eighteen months through two-years-old), a preschool room for three and four-year-olds and a school-age room. The four/five-year-old children meet in either the preschool room or the school-age room. The program also has access to an additional room in the center during the summer that is used by Hippity Hop Preschool during the school year. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler room and three-year-old preschool room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, woodworking, sensory table and music. 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 center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool program uses the Creative Curriculum, Heggerty for phonemic awareness, Jolly Phonics and other resources. Assessments are completed in the fall and spring in the preschool room. Activities are planned around weekly themes. Each teacher is responsible for developing their own lesson plans. The preschool program follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

Mats are used to nap in the preschool room. Cots are used to nap in the toddler room. Cribs and cots are used to nap in the infant room.

The rooms are creatively decorated and it is obvious the staff members put a lot of thought and time into their rooms. In the toddler room there is a Disney theme. In the preschool room there is a literacy theme. There are several books positioned all through the room and there is a stuffed animal of the main character next to the book. The rooms were also decorated for Fall and for Halloween.

The program uses the Lillio app (previously the HiMama app) in the infant, toddler and three-year-old PreK classrooms to provide daily reports to parents and to reduce paper/copying costs. The program also uses this app as their medication authorization forms. Medications are documented with the type of medicated product, the time and the initials of the worker. The program can access past med sheets if necessary.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in June 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway outside of the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/16/21, with compliance on 01/05/22.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Karen Baumler is the cook. The center serves breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. A new menu is prepared each month. The children eat in their rooms. Family style is not used. The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is one refrigerator, two upright freezers, two chest freezers and a milk cooler. Thermometers were present. There is a refrigerator in the storage closet in the toddler room and a thermometer was present. There are two dishwashers available to wash dishes. There are also five sinks in the kitchen; three of the sinks are for dishwashing and two sinks are for food prep. Food items in the pantry and kitchen were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus and allergies were posted.

The parents provide formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. All bottles, cups and bowls are returned to the kitchen for washing and sanitation. There are two refrigerators and a freezer in the infant room and thermometers were present. The infant room has feeding schedules posted for each child.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and they use Oxivir Tb to disinfect the diaper changing tables. I discussed and observed diaper changes in the rooms and proper procedures are followed. In the preschool room I observed a staff member spray the table with soap and water while children were sitting at the table. This cannot occur. I did talk with the lead teacher about this.

In the infant room there is one handwashing sink and one food prep sink and there are two diaper changing tables. In the toddler room there are two sinks in the classroom, two diaper changing tables and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. In the preschool and school-age rooms there are two sinks in the room and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted where necessary. There are timers in the rooms with the diaper changing tables so that the disinfectant sits on the tables for the mandated dwell time.

There are two large fenced in playgrounds behind the center. One area is for children ages two through five-years-old and one area is for preschool and school-age children. The area for children two through five-years-old has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a tunnel and a climbing wall. There is a small sandbox, playhouses, picnic tables and dramatic play equipment. There is also a grassy area and a tree provides shade. There is a storage shed in the area.

In the preschool area there is a Tot Tree that the infant and toddler rooms can use. Staff members provide careful supervision to keep children off the climbing equipment, but they can play on the grass.

The area for the school-aged children has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a large grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, sensory table and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. Ms. O'Kones states they often take the older children to local parks.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance near the office. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. There are parent resources in the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 15 children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have amazing teamwork. The rooms have larger enrollment right now and staff members were patient and had a great routine to meet the needs of all the children. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. They sat on the floor to interact at the children's level. They moved around the classrooms and introduced activities to the children. They used play to talk about colors, counting and shapes. Staff members provided the children with great handwashing reminders. Staff members were nurturing and attentive. They were rocking the children. In the infant room they were working on tummy time. Staff members were great at multi-tasking. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. O'Kones states the center continues to maintain steady enrollment. All classrooms are full and have waiting lists.

Ms. O'Kones states the center will institute a rate increase and the three day a week attendance option will be eliminated on 10/21/24. These changes will better support the operational expenses.

Ms. O'Kones states 80% of the center's lead teachers have degrees in Early Childhood or have early childhood diplomas. The lead teachers have been employed at the center for six to eleven years.

Ms. O'Kones states they have four assistant teachers that have been employed at the center for six to ten years.

Ms. O'Kones states they have made equipment upgrades to their classrooms and outside play environments because of ARPA award funds.

Ms. O'Kones states they have secures doors and security cameras in place.

There are staff pictures and bios in place on the "Meet the Staff" bulletin board, in addition to on the wall outside of each classroom door for the rooms they are working in that day.

Ms. O'Kones continues to be NAC certified and a member of NAEYC. She has been employed by the center for 16.5 years.

Ms. O'Kones states staff members display creativity in the activities that are planned with the children.

Ms. O'Kones states staff members take pride in their classroom environments and engage in regular efforts to add elements to spark children's interests. Overall organization and cleanliness of the classrooms is well maintained.

Ms. O'Kones states the center offers a three-year-old preschool program which runs Monday through Thursday during the school year.

Ms. O'Kones states the center offers a summer program for school-age children with regularly scheduled field trips, guest visitors and hands on activities.

Ms. O'Kones states the center utilizes the Lillio app to provide families with daily communication and updates.

Weaknesses and Goals:
Ms. O'Kones states the center has experienced staff turnover over the last couple of years which has negatively impacted the consistency of staffing the in the classrooms.

Ms. O'Kones states the center wants to continue to explore and offer staff members diverse online training opportunities as they have indicated the trainings work better for their schedules.

Ms. O'Kones states they will continue to work on boosting staff morale by increasing appreciation efforts and wages.

Ms. O'Kones states they will continue to encourage teamwork among all classroom staff members through scheduling efforts and completion of daily tasks lists during rest time in the classrooms.

Ms. O'Kones states the updates to the playground areas will be further explored with implementation of the playground improvements happening in the Spring of 2025.

Ms. O'Kones states they need to explore other updates to enhance the center (repainting the classrooms, replacing toys/equipment in the classrooms that are worn out, etc.).

Ms. O'Kones states they will explore hiring practices to employ more full time versus part time staff member to ease scheduling.

Ms. O'Kones states they want to plan and host a ten year Anniversary Celebration of the center being in their current location in the summer of 2025.

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

N/A

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

*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.