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

Name of Center: Kidz R Us Daycare LLC **Enrollment:** 58 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38258

Street: 601 E 3rd ST **City:** Anamosa Iowa **Zip** 52205 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 601 E 3rd ST, Anamosa, IA, 52205

Director's Name: Brenda Kelchen **Phone Number:** 319-462-4164

On-Site Supervisor(s): Nicole Sunderman **E-Mail:** blkelchen@aol.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-11-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 04-22-2021

Comments : Does Comply.

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	12	17	17	8	54
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 04-01-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Kidz R Us Daycare operates the following two programs: Kidz R Us Daycare LLC and Kidz R Us Too. Specifically, Kidz R Us Daycare LLC commenced operations in March of 2012. Kidz R Us Daycare LLC offers full-time and part-time programming for children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 58.

The program's founding multi-site owner and director is Brenda Kelchen. Ms. Kelchen has over 30 years of experience working in childcare and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Nicole Sunderman. Ms. Sunderman has been with the program since 2015. Ms. Sunderman has an AA degree in medical assisting, has over 9 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 3/11/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Kidz R Us Daycare operates the following two childcare businesses in the local community: Kidz R Us Daycare LLC (established March, 2012) and Kidz R Us Too (established April, 2015). Both programs are well-established in a predominantly rural community. Both programs offer many different childcare and early learning opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children. Each program accepts a variety of funding sources.

The year 2024 marks Kidz R Us Daycare's 12th year of providing childcare and early learning services to children and their families throughout the community. Congratulations!

Kidz R Us Daycare LLC has a private social media page for enrolled families.

Multi-site owner Brenda Kelchen is a local entrepreneur invested in the local and surrounding communities. Ownership and management of Kidz R Us Daycare LLC has remained consistent. This includes owner Ms. Kelchen and on-site supervisor Nicole Sunderman. Management is organized, and in turn, the program operates smoothly. Kidz R Us Daycare LLC has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures.

Since the last monitoring visit, Kidz R Us Too has retained seasoned staff as well as hired some new staff. Staff throughout various classrooms reported celebrating 12 years, 4 years, 1 year and 2 months with this childcare. Management continues to support employees through flexible scheduling whenever possible, hosting staff retreat experiences, and facilitating collaboration between the two sites to share materials, curriculum, joys, challenges, and ideas/planning. Management continues to encourage staff to pursue professional goals for themselves and reported being proud of staff's longevity as well as willingness to help out in various capacities as needed. Ms. Kelchen discussed additional staff benefits that were added since the last review. Management acknowledged how enrolled families and the community have continued to be very generous in showing appreciation towards their childcare staff.

Kidz R Us Daycare and Kidz R Us Too have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. These sites have successfully navigated historic Jones County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

Kidz R Us Daycare and Kidz R Us Too continue efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources (e.g. Smartcare, Tadpoles) , and supports family programming activities. Family events have included seasonal parties and celebrations (e.g. Valentine's exchange).

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Kidz R Us sites have local persons assisting with building maintenance, deep cleaning, and routine inspections. Management discussed recent security improvements. The kitchen is spacious, sanitary and organized. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments are displayed throughout the program space. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum includes a combination of learning strategies as well as teacher inspired ideas.

Kidz R Us sites collaborate well with community partners including local businesses, health professionals, CCR&R, and local school district. The owner, director and staff are vested in their childcare as well as being involved in their community. In 2018, the program received a First Place Blue Ribbon Award for their entry into the Anamosa Pumpkin Fest Parade.

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

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Ares of study included spring break and St. Patrick's Day. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, games, crafts, building materials, sensory items) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed throughout the classrooms were many (e.g. center play experiences, infant nurturance/cares). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, lunch time rituals, nap time preparations) were observed and worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of reassurance, utilizing positive redirection when needed, and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to regularly review hand washing requirements as well as policies and procedures for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

_____

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.