

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

Name of Center: Kidz R Us Too **Enrollment:** 57 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 45164

Street: 403 S Elm St **City:** Anamosa **Iowa Zip** 52205 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 403 S Elm St, Anamosa, IA, 52205

Director's Name: Holly Bright **Phone Number:** 319-462-3450

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

Date(s) of Visit: 03-15-2023

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: 06-30-2020

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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			36	36	72
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 03-27-2023

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 Too commenced operations in April of 2015. Kidz R Us Too offers a private 3-year-old preschool program as well as full-time and part-time childcare for preschool-age and school-age children. Current enrollment is 57.

The program's founding multi-site owner is Brenda Kelchen. Ms. Kelchen has over 30 years of experience working in childcare and continues to participate in much child development related training. Director of Kidz R Us Too is Holly Bright. Ms. Bright has over 19 years of experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Rileigh Willms. Ms. Willms has been the on-site supervisor since September, 2018.

On 3/15/2023, 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 2023 marks Kidz R Us Daycare's 11th year of providing childcare and early learning services to children and their families throughout the community. Congratulations!

Kidz R Us Too 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, director Ms. Bright, and on-site supervisor Ms. Willms. Management is organized, and in turn, the program operates smoothly. Kidz R Us Too 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 reported celebrating 11 years, 7 years, 6 years and 4 years of employment with this childcare. Management reported having one staff that is an EMT/having medical background. 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. Ms. Kelchen discussed encouraging 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. 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, January 2019 Polar Vortex, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2019 pandemic.

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. A recent family event included a Valentine's popcorn dance party.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Kidz R Us Daycare has local persons assisting with building maintenance, deep cleaning, and routine inspections. Since the last review, additional outdoor sensor was installed. The program added some shelving and reorganized storage areas. New outdoor seating areas, shed, and shade structure were established. Many new materials were obtained (e.g. outdoor play area wheeled cart, oversized Lincoln Logs, unique Picasso Blocks, farm and dinosaur themed magna-tiles, boogie writing blackboards). Ms. Bright discussed future goals related to outdoor resurfacing projects and additional preschool sessions. The kitchen and cafeteria area is spacious, sanitary and organized. Program areas continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork - rainbows, My Family) 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 Too collaborates well with community partners including the local area education agency, local businesses, health professionals, CCR&R, and local school district. An Anamosa Community School District school bus stop has been located outside the program building where school-age childcare children can ride the school bus to and from their program and school. 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 cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included Read Across America, spring break, and St. Patrick's Day. One classroom was recently noted as being the "DinoFours" due to their extreme fondness for dinosaur themed books and projects! Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play/vet/dress-up options, games, crafts, building materials, sensory items) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. arrival/greeting to the program, 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. One staff acknowledged "...I love that she problem solved by getting those crayons and coming over to the table..." 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:

Please repair the loose cabinet/door hinge in child play area.

The new outdoor shade structure has exposed footings. Remedy.

A full license is issued. 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.

