Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Beaver Creek Elementary

Provider No.: 27926

Address: 8701 Lyndhurst Dr, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Steve Conlan

On-Site Supervisor: Tara McCulley

Phone Number: 5152528490

E-Mail: sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 01/26/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/07/2023

Comments: Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations. Johnston/Grimes typically do these inspections more frequently. The last inspection on file was from 8/7/23 which means the center will be due for a new inspection no later than 8/2026.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	292	292
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 1/26/26. The on-site supervisor was present throughout this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation (partially due to the extreme cold temperature), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review (staff files were partially reviewed in I - Power and will be reviewed in full at another Kids Connection program in the near future).

This is one of five Kids Connection programs in the Johnston area. Children who attend this school attend this program. The program is open year round. During the school year, children can attend 6:30 am - 8:30 am and/or 3:35 pm - 6:00 pm. During the summer months and no school days, children attend 6:30 am - 6:00 pm (mostly at this school, but there are times they are combined at another Kids Connection school program). The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teaching of children.

Steve Conlan is the director of this program and the other four Kids Connection programs. Steve has a BS degree in Elementary Education and Specialized Social Studies. He has worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Tara McCulley is the on-site supervisor at this program. Tara has a BA degree in Psychology and Family Services and has past experience working with children, including the Kids Connection programs. Tara has also been an on-site supervisor at another Kids Connection program. Both individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

This program uses the school cafeteria, gym, and music room. All areas are in close proximity with each other. At the end of the school day, staff go to the specific school hallways to get the children who attend child care and take attendance.

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Children are divided up by age between the gym, cafeteria, and music room. Children then rotate between the rooms and for snack. There are designated staff who remain in the hallways to ensure supervision of the children who move between rooms or need use the restroom with permission.

During the inspection, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the gym. In the cafeteria, children were observed sitting at the tables and engaged in free-choice play (cards, blocks, manipulatives, art, dramatic play). In the gym, children were engaged in a large motor activities. In both areas, staff were spaced out an interacting with children.

NUTRITION: During the school year, the school provides breakfast and lunch to children. The center provides the PM snack. During the summer months and No School days, the school again provides breakfast. The center provides the PM snack. Children are responsible for providing their own lunches. The center will store these lunches as needed. All food storage was sufficient upon observation.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: Field trips are taken year-round. The center contracts with the school for a bus and driver. A first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along for all field trips.

PLAYGROUND: The center uses the school playground. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted. The playground was not observed up close at this year's inspection due to the extreme cold temperatures.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has a strong working relationship with the school and school personnel. The center receives support from school administration as well.

The center is able to use several rooms in the school for programming space.

This center is one of five Kids Connection centers in Johnston. All five centers have the same director, policies, handbooks, and structure; giving continuity and consistency among the different sites.

This center, as well as the other five sites, are trained in PBIS. They also incorporate STEM into the program.

The director of these programs has quarterly meetings with directors of other school district before and after school programs. In addition, on-site supervisors of these five programs meet with the director for monthly meetings. Then, individual centers have all staff meetings quarterly.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter and has a website.

The center conducts parent surveys twice a year.

Per the on-site supervisor, the center has a good team who are engaging with children and take initiative when needed. There is a good mix of tenured and new staff at this site.

The program conducts social events for staff and team building events. Staff are recognized on their birthday with treats. Staff are also eligible for benefits (insurance, vacation, etc.).

Good child/staff interactions were observed. There is a child incentive program in place as well for demonstrating leadership and good behaviors.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were some cleaning products sitting on a shelf in the music room that were accessible to children. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR AS IT PERTAINS TO CLEANING PRODUCTS BEING POTENTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

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The center should work with other school personnel to ensure no cleaning products are accessible to children.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located within a school and only serve school-age children. However, the center still conducts radon testing and fuel burning inspections.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit. As mentioned at last year's inspection, several staff need still to upload training certificates in I - Power and to their profile.

Staff files at this location will again be reviewed when one of the other Kids Connection programs are inspected in the near future.

Date: 01/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.