

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

Name of Center: Kidz R Us Too **Enrollment:** 58 **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:** kidzrus1anamosa@gmail.com
 blkelchen@aol.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-30-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 07-13-2023

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:	<u>Year-round</u>		<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>	
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 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 05-28-2025

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 58.

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 20 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 4/30/2025, 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 2025 marks Kidz R Us Daycare's 13th 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 discussed celebrating 13 years, 9 years, and 7 years employment with Kidz R Us. Congratulations on staff longevity! 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 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, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

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, and supports family programming activities. Family events have included seasonal parties, open houses "Unpack your Backpack Night", conferences, 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. 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 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, CART, 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. Areas of study included the spring season. Evidence of recent gardening projects were observed to be positioned in various sunlit classroom windows (e.g. seeds planted in dirt)! Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, games, crafts, building materials, sensory items) that encouraged innovative play. A group discussion included a book reading about various fruits followed by spirited conversation about recent fruit taste testing experiences. The children expressed much happiness in talking about which fruits they liked best! Children and staff were also observed engaging in outdoor large gross motor play. It was noted - the community (e.g. local business truck drivers) seemed to also enjoy adding to the children's outdoor play experiences by driving past and honking! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. staff warmly greeting children upon arrival, clean up activities) 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 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:

Through child file review, some enrolled children were found to have special medical needs (JL, SL, LS, KJ) requiring further medical documentation. Please continue to ensure any child presenting with a special health need (e.g. allergy, intolerance, asthma, seizures, diabetes, oxygen) has annually updated medical documentation (including special care-emergency plan) signed by the child's treating medical provider. Please also continue to ensure a copy of the medical documentation shall be kept in the child's file as well as a copy with any medication and/or special equipment (e.g. rescue medication, oxygen, inhaler).

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.