Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: At Home Education Services dba Kinderhaus

Provider No.: 51119

Address: 213 1st St SE, Mason City, IA, 50401

County: Cerro Gordo

Director's Name: Kelsey Determan

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6414257079

E-Mail: kinderhausmc@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/01/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/23/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: IQ4K Level 1

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			33		33
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Kinderhaus preschool on 09-01-26 where I met with Kelsey Determan who is the director, lead teacher, and owner of the program. Kelsey is well qualified based on her experience, education, and on-going professional development. The program is operated as a for-profit business owned by Kelsey and her husband, J.D. who also works at the center as an assistant teacher. The program is located in a commercial building in the downtown area of Mason City which has been renovated to provide space at the front of the building. The rear of the building is leased to another business but access to the preschool is restricted to prevent intrusion. The center provides preschool programing only serving only 3-4 year old children in either a morning or afternoon session. Children have the option to enroll in a 2 day, 3 day, or 5 day program. There are currently 32 children enrolled in the program between the various sessions.

The general layout and design of the center remains the same as observed in the prior visits. The center makes use of a single large open classroom that is divided into activity center through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. The space has multiple exits that provide direct exterior egress. Large windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light and a view of the outdoors. Restroom facilities are located directly accessible from the classroom and additional sinks are present to allow for handwashing, and food preparation. The restrooms also serve as emergency storm shelters.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming and Engagement:
Programming in the center remains consistent with prior years and follows the Montessori method of allowing children to learn through exploring their environment and natural interests. Kelsey does establish a planned schedule and curriculum

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that makes use of a general theme to help provide a focus for the children both in terms of materials that are made available, and for general points of consideration and discussion. The focus on the day of the visit was to introduce the children to the program and the new school year. Both Kelsey and JD have a very positive and calm demeanor when engaging with the children and use positive behavior supports to encourage appropriate behavioral choices. While the general philosophy is to allow children to seek their own interests both Kelsey and JD do talk with the children about their play to help them explore and make cognitive connections to their own experiences.

Health & Safety:
Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. Good hygiene practices were observed with children washing their hands following restroom use and before eating. The center also makes use of indoor slippers/shoes as a way to help children practice maintaining a clean environment. Tables were sanitized prior to meal service. A first aid kit was present and contained materials necessary to address common first aid needs.

Nutrition:
Due to the limited hours of operation the center does not serve meals but snacks are provided. The center does maintain a refrigerator for items that require cold holding temperatures to be maintained and thermometers were present. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. Similar to the programming approach of self-directed interests the children are allowed to determine when they wish to have a snack and serve themselves. A copy of a menu of planned snack items is maintained and the snack served on the day my visit included apples and pretzels. While the teachers did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the tables to ensure good eating practices were followed such as directing a child to dispose of dropped food and reserving that child.

Playground:
Due to the commercial nature of the center location there is no attached outdoor space available for a playground. The center does have an agreement with a neighboring business that has a large outdoor courtyard that the children use. The area is located across an alley, is fully enclosed by a tall stone wall, and contains an open grassy area with decorative details of a walking trail, water feature, and gazebo. The center does have additional toys and materials that are brought out that the children can play with.

Administration:
In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and the License Certificate were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for hand washing, emergency evacuation, emergency contacts, curriculum, and schedule were also posted. The center is still within the first 30 days of operation and had obtained contact information for all children but was still waiting on some physicals. The center is using the Brightwheel Communication Application to maintain records and parents do have direct access to update records as needed. It was noted that parents need to be reminded to include both a medical and dental contact for their children. Employee files for Kelsey and JD were reviewed and some information does need to be updated. The physical for Kelsey had not been dated, and a physical was needed for JD. In addition the Iowa SING background check for Kelsey had recently expired at the end of August and needs to be renewed. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates all were current and available except for Radon which was reported to have been completed but the results could not be located at the time of the visit. All appliances for the program are electric. The parent handbook was reviewed and needs to be updated to ensure that all required policies are present and include all information.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(1): Written policies on: Enrollment and discharge. Field trips and non-center activities. Discipline/Behavior/Biting. Nutrition.
Health and safety policies. Transportation if applicable. Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center.
Protecting children's confidentiality.
-- Written policies need to be added or expanded to include all required information for Health (handwashing, response plans), Incident Reports, Biting, and Access.

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- One record had expired and needed to be renewed.

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109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Current physicals required for both staff.

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

A list of required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided.

Kelsey stated that she update the background check, and physicals and would provide notification when those were completed.

Kelsey stated she would forward copies of radon testing results once they were located, and if they could not be located would renew testing.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended effect at this time. At least one visit will be made to the center during the coming year. Please provide confirmation that Radon Testing and Furnace Inspection have been completed.

Date: 09/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.