Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School

Provider No.: 51884

Address: 4343 Marilyn DR NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

County: Linn

Director's Name: Paul Pressler

On-Site Supervisor: Madison Blanchett

Phone Number: 3195120563

E-Mail: paul.pressler@discoverchampions.com
ssous@discoverchampions.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/09/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/21/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation

Comments: Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation

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				50	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. was founded in 1969 and has grown to become one of the largest providers of childcare in the United States. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. is currently primarily owned by Partners Group a Swiss private equity firm as well as other shareholders and investors. KCE Champions LLC is a division of KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. and included as a core brand along with KinderCare Learning Centers and The Creme School. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School which commenced operations on 8/22/2022. This location includes childcare for school-age children outside of school hours including the option to provide full days of childcare on no school days and extended school breaks including winter, spring and summer breaks. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 43 on 2/9/2026.

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. has a regional manager named Setara Sous. Ms. Sous has a BA in criminology, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training. Ms. Sous qualified for an Iowa director role in January 2024. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. has an area manager named Paul Pressler. Mr. Pressler qualified for the Iowa director role fall of 2023. Mr. Pressler has a MA degree in educational leadership, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training. Mr. Pressler is not only the director of this specific KCE Champions LLC location as he is also the director of several other Iowa locations. As a result, this location is required to have at least one Iowa qualified on-site supervisor (OSS). Madison "Maddie" Blanchett has been in the Iowa qualified OSS role for this location since 2024, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 2/9/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs on the school stage and within half of the school cafeteria. The program also has some access to the school gymnasium and outdoor school play areas. Sufficient restrooms

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including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. All foods offered to the childcare children are stored and prepared by the Cedar Rapids Community School District in the on-site school kitchen. On 2/9/2026, staff were observed warmly greeting children and families as they arrived for the morning childcare. The posted area of study included American Folk Music. Activities included before school tabletop events (e.g. making Valentine's, open Valentine's Day free craft creating, board games, K'Nex building, wooden block building, individual book reading, imaginative play options). Most noteworthy, were some planned how-to Valentine's themed crafts including popsicle picture or artwork frame creations. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation, good sportsmanship, the use of social graces and child choice. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions went smoothly and included restroom breaks, school breakfast rituals, clean-up procedures and periodic face-to-name counts. On 2/9/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and engaged in programming with the children. Staff were also observed wishing children well as they transitioned from childcare to school for breakfast and/or school learning. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the mornings' events.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..."

KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/champions/.

As of 2/9/2026, KCE Champions LLC programs remain for profit and operate under a board of directors having several Chief Operators including ones specific to operations, finance, curriculum and branding. The local management team (e.g. Ms. Sous, Mr. Pressler, Ms. Blanchett) remains primarily consistent. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures.

On 2/9/2026, KCE Champions LLC @ Pierce Elementary School was found to have an area for required postings as well as other information. Curriculum continues to focus on six content areas that research shows enhance children’s growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness, healthy eating, and homework assistance (as needed) are part of the program’s operations. Extended school break curriculum continues to be enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips.

KCE Champions LLC continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On 2/9/2026, Ms. Blanchett acknowledged how their team of staff continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their policies and procedures. Ms. Blanchett also talked about having support from the school (e.g. school kitchen staff, school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team) as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs. School kitchen is inspected by the local health department. There is an AED on-site.

KCE Champions LLC locations including this specific location have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through air quality alerts (2023, 2025), repeated expansion and acquisition events, and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

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

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current

certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
- Staff file (SB hired August 2024) reviewed (e.g. paper, ipower) lacked documentation of current first-aid, current CPR, and required 2025 annual professional development hours.
- Staff file (SB hired August 2024) reviewed lacked documentation of a physical exam with TB screening/testing on required form 47-5152.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

After hand washing, ensure children engage in food service (e.g. school breakfast) at clean and sanitized food tables.

Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 02/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.