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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Wallace Elementary **Enrollment:** 167 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42081

Street: 6207 NW 62nd Ave **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: PO Box 10, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Steve Conlan **Phone Number:** 515-252-8490

On-Site Supervisor(s): Charity Johnson **E-Mail:** sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 02-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-23-2023

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 07-06-2022

Comments : Johnston/Grimes Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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	0	0	0	548	548
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-09-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 2/8/24. The on-site supervisor was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review (staff files will be reviewed at another Kids Connection program licensing visit in the future). The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Kids Connection - Wallace Elementary moved into the old Johnston Middle School starting in the 2018-2019 school year. This is one of five Kids Connection programs. Children who attend this school attend this program although that changes some in the summer months where children are divided up by age/grade between the five programs. 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 can attend 6:30 am -6:00 pm. The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teachings.

Steve Conlan is the director of this program and the other four Kids Connection programs. Steve has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Specialized Social Studies. He has worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Charity Johnson is the on-site supervisor. Charity has a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and has also worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Both individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

This program uses the cafeteria and the two gyms, as well as two playground areas.

During the visit, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the smaller gym. In the smaller gym, children were engaged in large motor activities. In the cafeteria, children were sitting at the tables and chairs and in smaller groups playing different games, doing homework, visiting, playing with blocks and other manipulative toys, and being picked up by their parents. Staff were spaced out and interacting and attentive to the children in both locations within the building.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Walkie-talkies are used by staff to communicate with each other. There is also a staff "greeter" by the main parent board for children coming and going, as well as a hall monitor to ensure the children are where they need to be. The entrance to the center is secure.

Staff members are wearing center shirts that make them more easily identifiable.

This center is one of five Kids Connection centers in Johnston. All five centers have the same director, policies, handbooks, etc. There is continuity.

The center has a website through the school district and sends out monthly newsletters to the parents.

The director of these five programs has roughly 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 meetings every other week. Then individual centers have all staff meetings several times throughout the year.

The center has a strong working relationship with the school.

The center incorporates different themes and projects throughout the year and has events for parents to attend.

The Kids Connection programs take care of their employees which include, but are not limited to higher wages, potential opportunities for benefits, incentive programs, a recognition program, etc.

The Kids Connection programs have good community supports from other businesses, local colleges, etc. There is a real sense of partnership.

The Kids Connection programs have several staff that were once children in these programs themselves.

There is a built-in COVID team within the district.

Enrollment has again increased over the past year.

The on-site supervisor is the most tenured of all the Kids Connection on-site supervisors and has also participated in the Iowa After School Alliance Training.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There were two expired epipens observed.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
There is at least one bolt along the smaller playground fence line that will still need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental tested because they are located in an actual school building and only serve school-age children. However, they still do radon testing.

For field trips, the center contracts with the school district to take a bus and school bus driver.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

This consultant showed the on-site supervisor the online CACFP smart phone app.

Information on record check evaluations was discussed at the visit with the on-site supervisor.

*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.