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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Beaver Creek Elementary **Enrollment:** 96 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27926

Street: 8701 Lyndhurst Dr **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): Tara McCulley **E-Mail:** sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 01-13-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-30-2024

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

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.

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	292	292
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-14-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 1/13/25. 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, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

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. 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. 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 visit, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the gym. In the cafeteria, most of the children were doing art projects related to the theme of it being National Sticker Day. Some children were also observed playing with dramatic play toys. In the gym, children were getting instructions from staff before starting a large motor activity/game.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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 meetings every other week. Then individual centers have all staff meetings monthly.

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.

A few new playground structures have been added over the past year.

Enrollment remains steady.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
The cleaners (school uses these) in the cafeteria should be stored in an area that is inaccessible to children.

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
The full-day schedule should be adjusted some as discussed at the visit between lunch and PM snack.

V. 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.

Field trips are taken year-round. The center contracts with the school for a bus and driver.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit. 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.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.