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

**Name of Center:** Kids Connection-Horizon Elementary **Enrollment:** 114 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42076

**Street:** 5905 NW 100th St **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

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

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

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

**Date(s) of Visit:** 02-04-2025

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 01-13-2025

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

**Date Inspected:** 08-01-2023

**Comments :** Fire 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 | 287 | 287 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-05-2025

**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 2/4/25. The director and the on-site supervisor were both 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.

Kids Connection Horizon Elementary is one of five Kids Connection programs. 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 teachings. During the summer months, children are separated according to their grade and attend the school designated for their grade, rather than the school that they attend.

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. Brenda Schumaker is the on-site supervisor at this location. Brenda has an AA degree and has many years' worth of experience working in child care/school-age programs. Brenda has been in this position for 15 plus years.

This program uses primarily the gym and the cafeteria, but they also have access to the music room and computer room if needed as well as the outdoor playground area.

During the visit, children and staff were using the cafeteria and the gym. In the cafeteria, children were spaced out among the tables as were staff. Children were engaged in free-choice play with the different learning stations made available to them. In the gym, children and staff were engaged in a game of kick ball.

**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 and who also monitors attendance.

Staff members are wear center shirts and sweatshirts that make them more easily identifiable. Staff pictures are also posted by the main parent board.

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

The center has a website through the school district. The program also has a Facebook page.

Homework time is made available for children.

The center provides children with a wide variety of activities including Spanish classes, classroom helper, project, child behavioral incentives, sign language, and yoga. The center incorporates theme weeks during the summer months. Children are allowed to provide feedback on which activities they would like to help plan.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff.

The director and on-site supervisor have a strong working relationship with the school and school personnel. The on-site supervisor works well with the school counselor to ensure there is consistency and support for children who present with some behavioral challenges.

The Kids Connection programs take care of their employees which include, but are not limited to higher wages, potential opportunities for benefits, incentive programs, etc. Good work or work that goes above and beyond is recognized.

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

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

The director meets quarterly with other directors in the metro suburbs. All Kids Connection on-site supervisors have meetings with each other every other week. Monthly staff meetings are held with staff at this center.

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

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.
THIS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE PER THE FULL DAY SCHEDULE. THE CENTER SHOULD ADD AND PROVIDE A SMALLER SNACK WHILE ON A FIELD TRIP FOR FULL DAYS.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located within a school and only serve school-age children. The center, however, does radon testing through the school.

The center contacts with the school district for a school bus and driver for all field trips.

I-Power was again discussed. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles. Training hours/certificates also need to be consistently uploaded to profiles.

When using the music room, staff should ensure all cords are secure (not freely dangling).

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.