Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Metro Kids - Cowles

Provider No.: 36554

Address: 6401 College Ave, Windsor Heights, IA, 50324

County: Polk

Director's Name: Kelsi Stanley

On-Site Supervisor: Sylvia Bright

Phone Number: 5152427951

E-Mail: Kelsi.Stanley@dmschools.org

HHS Visit Date: 07/23/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/17/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			26	150	176
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Metro Kids - Cowles has been in operation for many years. The center provides before and after school child care for children attending this school. The school has a secured entrance. The center uses the cafeteria, library and gym for school age children. This program provides child care for children three to five years of age who attend preschool at Cowles. The preschool has their own child care room during the school day. The center uses the outdoor playground area also. Kelsi Stanley is the director of the Cowles site as well as several other Metro Kids sites. Sylvia Bright is the on site supervisor. Sylvia has a Bachelors degree in Social Services. Sylvia has been employed with Metro Kids since 2007.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance. A schedule/lesson plan was posted. During the school year, the center sets out table activities, games and interest areas in the cafeteria. The preschool class has it's own classroom.

Sylvia assisted with today's visit. During regular programming, the center has children divided into three groups during majority of programming time: Yellow (preschool), Red (younger children) and Blue (older children). Summer programming is being held at Cowles. Current enrollment is 92. The center is using the library (Yellow), cafeteria (Red), music room (Blue) and gym and playground for summer programming. Children were observed in programs rooms and outdoors. Children were engaged in table toys and games, doing craft activities and large motor games.

The center provides snack during regular programming. During all day programming, the center provides morning and afternoon snacks. Children bring their own lunch. Menus were reviewed and showed compliance with CACFP.

The center uses the schools' playground areas. The playgrounds are maintained by school staff. The center completes

monthly playground checks.

The Metro Kids Program uses school buses for off site field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Metro Kids has been in operation for many years. The children have the opportunity for large motor play activities on a daily basis through the use of the playground and gym.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required:
The Yellow Class (preschool/3/4's) and Blue Class were on the playground together.
Staff said this isn't a typical practice. The older class was working on a project but staff made a decision to remain on the playground, while the preschool class was there also.
The schedule keeps the preschool group separated from school age as they are aware 3's cannot blend with school age children.

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner.
These blankets don't comply with HHS Rules and the center needs to ensure children are napping on mats or cots, covered by sheets.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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An administrative change is being made to move the licenses for all Metro Kids locations to 1-1-2020 to 1-1-2022

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Date: 08/04/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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**.