Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc

Provider No.: 19260

Address: 404 N Pine St, West Union, IA, 52175

County: Fayette

Director's Name: Mary O'Kones

On-Site Supervisor: Hunter Berg

Phone Number: 5634225379

E-Mail: kkcc.office@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/19/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/06/2025

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	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	17	24	48	30	119
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/19/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc. in West Union. I met with Mary O'Kones, the director. Ms. O'Kones has a BA in psychology and she is a NAEYC member. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). She has been employed at the center for 18 ½ years. Hunter Berg is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher in the three-year-old preschool room. He has an early childhood diploma and a paraeducator certificate. Mr. Berg is in charge when Ms. O'Kones is away from the center. There are 24 staff members employed by the center.

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center originally opened August 8th, 2007, in the United Methodist Church in West Union. They started in their new location 01/05/15. The center is a community non-profit program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are infants through children who are eight years old or through the summer of second grade. It offers a three-year-old preschool program during the school year that operates on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. There are currently 100 children enrolled.

The program utilizes the following classrooms: infant room (six weeks through eighteen months old), toddler room (eighteen months through two-years-old), a preschool room for three and four-year-olds and a school age room. The four/five-year-old children meet in either the preschool room or the school age room. The program also has access to an additional room in the center during the summer that is used by Hippity Hop Preschool during the school year. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler room and three-year-old preschool room.

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The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool program uses the Creative Curriculum, Heggerty for phonemic awareness, Jolly Phonics and other resources. Assessments are completed in the fall and spring in the preschool room. Activities are planned around weekly themes. Each teacher is responsible for developing their own lesson plans. The preschool program follows Iowa Early Learning Standards. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

Mats are used to nap in the preschool room. Cots are used to nap in the toddler room. Cribs and cots are used to nap in the infant room.

The program uses the ProCare app in the infant, toddler and three-year-old PreK classrooms to provide daily reports to parents and to reduce paper/copying costs. The program also uses this app as their medication authorization forms. Medications are documented with the type of medicated product, the time and the initials of the worker. The program can access past med sheets if necessary.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in September 2025 and is good for two years because the program has a radon mitigation system. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway outside of the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/06/25.

The center is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Karen Baumler is the cook. The center serves breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. A new menu is prepared each month by Ms. Baumler. The children eat in their rooms. Family style is not used. The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is one refrigerator, two upright freezers, two chest freezers and a milk cooler. There were thermometers present. There are two dishwashers available to wash dishes. There are also five sinks in the kitchen; three of the sinks are for dishwashing and two sinks are for food prep. Food items in the pantry and kitchen were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus and allergies were posted.

The parents provide formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. Bottles are rinsed in the classroom but are sent home to be washed each day. Cups and bowls are returned to the kitchen for washing and sanitation. There were two refrigerators and a freezer in the infant room and thermometers were present. The infant room has feeding schedules posted for each child.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and they use Oxivir Tb to disinfect the diaper changing tables. I discussed and observed diaper changes in the rooms and proper procedures are followed.

In the infant room there is one handwashing sink and one food prep sink and there are two diaper changing tables. In the toddler room there are two sinks in the classroom, two diaper changing tables and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. In the preschool and school age rooms there are two sinks in the room and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted where necessary. There are timers in the rooms with the diaper changing tables so that the disinfectant sits on the tables for the mandated dwell time.

There are two large fenced-in playgrounds behind the center. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. One area is for children aged two through five-years-old and one area is for preschool and school age children. The area for children two through five-years-old has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a tunnel and a climbing wall. There is a small sandbox, playhouses, picnic tables and dramatic play equipment. There is also a grassy area and a tree that provides shade. There is a storage shed in the area.

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In the preschool area there is a Tot Tree that the infant and toddler rooms can use. Staff members provide careful supervision to keep children off the climbing equipment, but they can play on the grass.

The area for the school-aged children has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a large grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, sensory table and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. Ms. O'Kones states they often take the older children to local parks.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance near the office. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. There are parent resources in the entrance.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center continues to have a strong administrator with several years of experience in childcare. Ms. O'Kones is committed to providing a safe environment for the children. Staff members had terrific interaction with the children in each room. They made the learning environment fun and inviting. Staff members are enthusiastic and it came across in how they taught and interacted with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles within the classrooms and know what to expect from one another. Staff members provided easy to understand and clear directions for the children. They provided the children with praise and a calm environment and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members change out centers routinely so that children do not get bored. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations.

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center (KKCC) continues to maintain steady enrollment.

Overall, the parents are pleased with the quality of care their children receive. Parents are also appreciative and supportive of staff.

The center has very good longevity in full-time staff members. The lead teachers have been employed at the center for eight to thirteen years, except for the school age lead teacher; she has been employed at the center for three years. Four assistant teachers have been employed at the center for five to twelve years.

KKCC lead teachers have Early Childhood Diplomas, degrees in Early Childhood or are pursuing degrees in Elementary Education.

Ms. O'Kones continues to be NAC certified and a member of NAEYC. She has been employed at the center for 18 ½ years.

Equipment upgrades were made possible through grant and local foundation funding. These upgrades include UV lights on all classroom HVAC systems, new cribs and crib sheets for the infant room, a new changing table for the toddler room, and more durable child seating for the three-year-old preschool classroom.

Strong plastic boarders were installed around the two playground areas to better contain the wood fiber playground fill. The boarder was extended further out on the younger playground to fix the lack of grass growth in high traffic areas.

The secure door system and security cameras are in place.

Staff pictures and bios are in place on the "Meet the Staff" bulletin board in the entrance. In addition, pictures of the staff

members working each day are posted outside of each classroom.

Staff display creativity in activities that are planned with the children.

Staff set up special backdrops for holidays and take photos of the children for parents to enjoy.

Staff take pride in their classroom environments and engage in regular efforts to add new and fun elements to spark children's interests.

Organization and cleanliness of the classrooms is well maintained.

KKCC offers a three-year-old preschool program Monday through Thursday.

KKCC offers a summer program for school age children with regularly scheduled field trips, guest visitors, and hands-on activities.

KKCC utilizes the ProCare app to provide families with daily communication and updates.

They provide staff with online training opportunities when available to make it work better for their schedules.

GOALS:
Staff turnover continues to be an issue especially among new hires. This turnover causes frustration among other staff because they must pick up the slack. It is a lot of wasted time and energy spent hiring people when they only last a month or two.

Staff morale is often low because of focusing on the negative rather than the positives. There are a lot of good things that happen daily, but some cannot seem to see them because of fixating on the negatives.

Continue to challenge staff to set realistic expectations for children that fit their stage of development. Unrealistic expectations create frustration and more challenges.

Continue to support staff in using appropriate, child-friendly voice tones and positive redirection in the classrooms.

Continue to encourage teamwork among all classroom staff through scheduling efforts and completion of daily task lists during rest times in the classrooms.

Continue to explore further updates to enhance the center.

Plan for classroom restructuring and utilization of the Hippity Hop Preschool classroom in the future.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There are no violations.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. O'Kones her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. O'Kones states if staff members are frustrated, they are

expected to step out of the room and take a break, ask another staff member to step in and help or ask her to come into the room to assist. Ms. O'Kones states the have lowered the number of school age children they will care for at the center to twenty children. They also only take children up to age eight or through the summer of second grade.

Ms. O'Kones states that sometimes staff members have unrealistic expectations and they need to learn to let the "little things" go because they are not worth getting frustrated over.

To monitor, Ms. O'Kones states she checks in with the rooms as much as possible. She states she makes the rooms leave their classroom doors open so she can hear if voices are raised. Ms. O'Kones states that a majority of staff members are comfortable coming to her with concerns. They talk at staff meetings about staff members holding other staff members accountable if they witness something concerning.

Date: 10/22/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.