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

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Wright Elementary School **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51889

Street: 1524 Hollywood BLVD NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO Box 171, Palo, IA, 52324

Director's Name: Bethany "Bree" Hogue **Phone Number:** 319-432-3608

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mandi McLaud **E-Mail:** monawilliams@discoverchampions.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-31-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-17-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other 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				60	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-05-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KCE Champions LLC operates multiple school-age childcare programs within the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Specifically, KCE Champions LLC @ Wright Elementary School is located inside Wright Elementary School which is part of the Cedar Rapids Community School District. The program primarily operates Monday through Friday before and after school hours 6:30am to 6:00pm. KCE Champions does have the ability to extend hours on scheduled early release days, emergency late start days, and emergency early-out days. During the summer, full days of emergency closing (example snow day), and some breaks (holiday and spring), this site has the ability to operate full days and/or combine for full days of care at another KCE Champions LLC location. KCE Champions LLC @ Johnson Steam Academy serves only school-age children. Current enrollment is 25.

Multi-site director Bethany "Bree" Hogue has been with the program since operations commenced in 2022. Ms. Hogue is completing an AA degree in early childhood education, has over 14 years of experience working in children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Mandi McLaud. Ms. McLaud has a degree, several years experience working with children and continues to participate in the required annual professional growth hours.

On 5/31/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KCE Champions LLC @ Wright Elementary School is located inside an elementary school in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of early learning and childcare opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KCE Champions LLC @ Wright Elementary School has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://www.discoverchampions.com/.

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..." KCE Champions LCC is a division of KinderCare Education. The history of how KCE Champions LLC came to fruition and evolved to present day (including 1969 KinderCare Learning Centers founded, 1998 corporate headquarters moved from Montgomery Alabama to present-day Portland Oregon, 2003 KCE Champions LLC joins KinderCare Education, 2013 KinderCare launches its Early Foundations proprietary curriculum) is impressive. KinderCare Education serves more than 186,000 children in 40 states, and Champions specifically serves more than 40,000 of those children in 21 states and Washington, D.C. Champions partners with principals, teachers, and parents to create more than 600 before- and after-school and year-round learning environments.

In 2021, KinderCare Education earned a fifth Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award - one of only four companies

worldwide to receive this aware five years in a row. Champions has made a continuous commitment to earn and re-earn Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation.

Multi-site director Ms. Hogue has been with the KCE Champions LLC since commencing operations within the Cedar Rapids Community Schools in 2022. Management continues to report hiring staff who have prior experiences working with children. Management also continues to report having professional staff hiring and onboarding practices as well as holding regular staff meetings to review rules and policies while offering staff supports and appreciation.

KCE Champions LLC has established and is working to maintain optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has a parent-staff/program information center, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. On 8/16/2023, KCE Champions LLC sponsored a "Champions Family Night" at Morgan Creek Park with food, face painting and more to welcome new and returning families to the 2023-2024 school-year. Enrollment for summer 2024 "Champ Camp" is underway. A posting for families to join in a summer open house scheduled on 6/7/2024 was observed. Management reported this site will not be operating during summer 2024 but will combine at another Champions childcare location.

KCE Champions LLC school-age curriculum focuses on six content areas that research shows enhance school-age children's growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in elementary school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness, healthy eating, and homework assistance (as needed) are part of the program's operations. There are additional opportunities offered for enrichment clubs and Junior Counselor leadership roles for older school-age students. Summer/extended breaks curriculum is also enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips. KCE Champions LLC @ Wright Elementary School has daily access to the school cafeteria.

KCE Champions collaborates well with many community partners including local school districts, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. The school kitchen provides all food items for the childcare program. There is an AED onsite.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures for handwashing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, on-site materials and furnishing were observed. Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families as they arrived for the morning's childcare. Activities observed included free choice (e.g. sensory play, bracelet bead work, building with Magna Tiles, crafting with markers). Staff were actively engaged with the children, provided positive redirection when needed and encouraged social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying the program.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- Staff file reviewed (HC; hire April 2024) lacked documentation of current physical exam with TB screening/testing.
- Staff file reviewed (HC; hire April 2024) lacked documentation of current federal record check result on the day of the monitoring visit. Since that time, management reported obtaining the results.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
- Child file reviewed (TC) lacked documentation of an annual date of review.
- Child file reviewed (TC) indicated there are special medical considerations (asthma, food allergy) requiring a written emergency plan provided by the child's treating medical provider and the need for possible rescue medication. Ensure written medical documentation from the child's treating medical provider is obtained to provide clarification for the paperwork observed in the child's file.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please ensure posted lesson/curriculum plan have the current week's dates rather than just a week with number(s). To have otherwise, makes it difficult to know if the posted lesson/curriculum plan is current.

Please ensure there are cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting supplies on-site and that each is properly labeled (e.g. name of product, manufacturer use instructions).

Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

If a qualified OSS is reassigned from one licensed Champions program to another, please provide written documentation via email to licensing so the change can be noted.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.