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

Name of Center: Kingdom Kids of St. Olaf **Enrollment:** 5 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52070

Street: 239 N 11th ST **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 239 N 11th ST, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Kathy Dencklau **Phone Number:** 515-576-2103

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** daycare@stolaffd.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-03-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-01-2022

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

Date Inspected: 11-16-2022

Comments :

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: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				68	68
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-03-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 05-05-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to the Kingdom Kids of St. Olaf program on 05-03-23 where I met with the center director Kathy Dencklau. Kathy is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training and having been the director of another licensed program in the past. This is the initial visit for the center which was given permission to open on 02-10-23. The program is operated as a non-profit center in the St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge overseen by a board from the church. The program is currently only providing after school care for school age children but does plan to expand to full range programming pending renovations of space in the building. There are currently 5 children enrolled in the program and Kathy is the only teacher at this time. It has been reviewed that once the program reaches a point where there would be 8 or more children present a second staff member would required to be on-site as well. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The program is currently making use of a single open commons meeting hall of the church. The room has several entry points off main passage corridors which lead to direct exits and other areas of the building. A stage, and computer bar are present in the room but are not utilized by the daycare program. Windows are present along an exterior wall that provide natural light. Restrooms are located outside the room off a main entry corridor. The children are either escorted to the restroom as a group of if a child needs to use the restroom at other times it is directly observable with an individual being positioned at the entry to the programming space. The space was observed to be well maintained and clean.

Due to the dual use nature of the space the program is not able to maintain a traditional daycare arrangement in the room. The space is a large open room with multiple round meeting tables and chairs. The center does maintain toys and materials in a storage closet which are brought out for use and arranged at various tables when the program is in operation. This included art/crafts, Lego's, puzzles, board games, large and small manipulative toys, and books. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. The planned curriculum theme on the day of my visit was Farming & Seeds. Kathy did have a group activity project of the children coloring worksheets and stapling them into a book, as well as talking about related aspects during other activities such as how the various ingredients of the snack being provided were produced. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit. The small group size has allowed for Kathy to become very familiar with the children where she is able to engage with them in a very easy manner to support their interests, and positive interactions.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. The children did use restrooms and wash their hands upon arrival, and before snack service. A first aid kit is maintained by the program which has materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The church also has an Automated Electronic Defibrillator. The church custodians responsible for the general cleaning of the facilities but Kathy does use a bleach water solution to sanitize tables and materials when the program is in operation. Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, and other items that pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible. Due to the limited hours of operation medications are not administered at the program but policies are in place should it be necessary.

The church does have a full kitchen which is separated from the programming area by a pass through counter, and door. Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but a snack is provided. A menu of the provided snack items was

present and identified a good variety of credible food options. The snack offered on the day of my visit included mini muffins, and apple sauce. The snack items provided typically consist of pre-packaged single serving shelf stable items. Good food storage and handling practices were observed.

The church has large open grassy areas, and an established meditation garden where the children can play while the program is working to establish an outdoor playground space.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area readily accessible to families and visitors. All child adn staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and present. The center handbook was reviewed and Kathy acknowledged that she is still working to develop her emergency plans.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new program that was developed to address a need within the community and has a very strong collaboration with the host church. Kathy identified that the church has raised a significant amount of funding for renovations of classrooms that will allow for the expansion of the center to include other programming and age groups. The church also had a Toy Donations Table where materials for the center could be left and which did have items present on the day of the visit.

The current limited scope of operations has allowed Kathy to establish a strong program with the development of curriculum, engagement, and planning for expansion.

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

109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children.Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards.If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.
-- Emergency plans are needed for responding to Intoxicated Parent/Individual, Tornado Evacuation, Lost/Abducted Child, Relocation (immediate, out of neighborhood, out of community), Loss Of Power.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.