

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

Name of Center: Metro Kids - Cowles **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36554

Street: 6401 College Ave **City:** Windsor Heights **Iowa** **Zip** 50324 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2100 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA, 50321

Director's Name: Kelsi Stanley **Phone Number:** 515-242-7951

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ryan Poulter **E-Mail:** Kelsi.Stanley@dmschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-23-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 11-15-2021

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

Date Inspected: 09-13-2023

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X 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			26	150	176
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

Date: 07-24-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

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 and gym for school age children. PAX Place is also held in Cowles. This program provides child care for children three to five years of age who attend preschool at Cowles. These children use the library for programming space. The center uses the outdoor playground area also. Jane Bishop is the director of the Cowles site as well as several other Metro Kids sites. Ryan Poulter is the on site supervisor. Ryan has a Bachelors degree. He's been with Metro Kids since 2019.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to DHHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance. A summer schedule and lesson plan was posted.

Ryan wasn't present today. Catarina Hathaway assisted with today's visit. There were ten staff working today. There were fifty five children present at the time of the visit. Children were observed in the cafeteria, the preschool classroom and in the upstairs classroom. Children ages three to five years were in the preschool classroom. The children that were majority 1st and 2nd graders were in the cafeteria. Children in third through 5th grade were in the upstairs were in the upstairs classroom. Each room has age appropriate toys, games and supplies. Children were observed playing group and individual games and doing art projects.

At the end of programming, all the children were combined in the cafeteria. This was discussed with Catarina and was also addressed with Kelsie Stanley as three year old children cannot be in programming with school age children. In addition, Cowles provides child care for their middle school students and there are times middle school students are combined with Metro Kids. This is also a licensing violation.

The center has a lot of outdoor play materials for children's use. School staff maintain the playground. The center completes monthly playground checks.

The center provides snack during regular programming. During regional days and breaks, the center provides breakfast and snacks. There were snacks on the menu that didn't meet CACFP standards as two dairy products were served and two food groups need to be served. The storage of the snacks is sufficient.

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

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Metro Kids has been in operation for many years. There is a good supply of play and learning materials for children in program rooms. The children have the opportunity for large motor play activities on a daily basis through the use of the playground and gym.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
Some staff didn't complete or haven't completed required trainings in the required time frame.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Two staff didn't complete required hours of professional development training.

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age.
Ratio violations combining three year old children with school age children.
Ratio violation with allowing middle school children (children older than 12 years old) to be in programming with Metro Kids Program.
These violations are being corrected.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
One staff that started in March 2023 hasn't had federal record check completed.

109.15(1) Each child served a full nutritionally balanced meal or snack as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Some snacks being served don't meet CACFP guidelines as two dairy products are served.
Snack menus are being changed.

V. 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 mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) 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.

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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