Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KinderCare Learning Center

Provider No.: 50165

Address: 8601 Thomas Avenue, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Briana Johnson, Shannon Wilke, Ashley Blanchard

On-Site Supervisor: Stacey Hollinger and Cassidy Brummer

Phone Number: 5152141036

E-Mail: briana.johnson@kindercare.com
Jeremy.Todd@Kindercare.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/06/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/13/2023

Comments: 6/14/24 - new building. Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing requirements.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: NAEYC

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 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	91	32	61	21	205
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 7/6/26. The head director was present throughout this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Kindercare Learning Center in Johnston, IA opened under HHS (formerly DHS) supervision in September of 2019. This center is one of several centers in the Des Moines Metro owned by nationwide corporation, Kindercare Eduation. There are two buildings on the grounds right next to each other. One building has four classrooms and the other building has 10 classrooms. The center serves children six weeks in age through 12 years in age using the Early Foundations Learning Curriculum. The center is open year-round, Monday - Friday.

The director of this center is Briana Johnson. The assistant directors are Shannon Wilke and Ashley Blanchard. Stacey Hollinger and Cassidy Brummer are the on-site supervisors. All individuals meet the requirements for their positions/titles. All Kindercare centers are also overseen by a district manager.

NUTRITION: The center serves an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack to children. The food menu posted met CACFP requirements. The center has a full kitchen and employs a full-time cook. All food storage observed was sufficiently sealed. Family style dining is practiced for older children.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has three buses. One bus was observed. The center transports school-age

children to/from school and the center within the Johnston School District. Field trips are also taken throughout the year. Children in Pre-Kindergarten through school-age are eligible to go on field trips. For all field trips, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along. Regular maintenance is performed on the buses.

PLAYGROUND: The center has a large playground area and it is divided up based on ages of children. Poured in place rubber is used for surfacing around the climbing structures. There are also large grassy areas and a concrete area for children to play on. No issues were noted with any of the climbing structures or riding toys. There are shade structures and the building also provides some shade. There were issues with the fence (mentioned below). There was also a hole on the playground along one area of the fence that needs to be filled in with dirt.

During the inspection, children were observed in a variety of activities. These activities included, but were not limited to tummy time in the infant classrooms, being held, being bottle fed, napping in cribs, engaged in a large-group science activity being facilitated by staff, having sunscreen applied, and playing outside on the playground. Staff and children questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills. Toys, tables, mats, chairs, etc. are being cleaned and sanitized daily. Diapering tables are disinfected per the disinfectant product guidelines.

For more difficult child behaviors, the director consistently promotes staff communicating and helping each other during difficult times. Management is also available to assist as needed. Partnerships with parents is also practiced.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Enrollment remains steady.

The director is organized and has several years of experience being a director.

There is a lot of natural light within the center.

There is a secure entrance.

This is one of many Kindercare centers in the Des Moines Metro. All programs have Regional Directors, utilize the same handbooks, and can share staff if needed.

The center is NAEYC accredited.

The center participates in CACFP.

The center has their own kitchen and employs a full-time cook.

Family style dining is practiced for old children.

The center works with CCR&R and their nurse consultant regularly.

The center has an indoor gym area when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

Full-time staff are eligible for benefits.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
All children, regardless of age, need to have a doctor and a dentist listed. Information includes the names, addresses, and phone numbers.

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109.10(1): Medications: The center shall have written procedures for dispensing, storage, and authorization, and recording of all prescription and non-prescription medications. Staff must be over 18 to administer medication.All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name. For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given. For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription. Staff shall not provide medications to a child if pre-service/orientation training for medication management has not been completed.
There was one expired asthma medication observed.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
There were some child-size vinyl chairs that will need to be repaired or replaced observed in classrooms as they were torn.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic. Several areas of the fence on the playground are in need of repair as shown to the director during the inspection. There is also a hole along the fence and playground that should be filled in.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Current July lesson plans were not available in some of the classrooms.

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

The below standards identified at this year's inspection should be corrected as soon as possible.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last conducted 3/15/24 - 3/18/24. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The last annual HVAC inspection on file was from 9/22/25 so it is again coming due again soon.

I - Power and IQ4K were discussed at the inspection. Staff should continue to upload all training certificates into their individual profiles. The center has had conversations with CCCR&R in regards to participating in IQ4K.

Hooks are recommended by phones to help keep phone cords from freely dangling and/or accessible to children.

It is recommended that the center's Emergency Preparedness kits be stored in suitcases that have wheels on them for easier transport if ever needed. It is recommended the center have these in both buildings.

It was noted that several classrooms needed to be swept after activities when these rooms were observed.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

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Date: 07/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.