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

Name of Center: Kinderwood CCC **Enrollment:** 65 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19205

Street: 301 W Lincoln ST **City:** Edgewood Iowa **Zip** 52042 **County:** Clayton

Mailing Address: PO Box 483, Edgewood, IA, 52042

Director's Name: Sydney Blashaw **Phone Number:** 563-928-6639

On-Site Supervisor(s): Bailee Helle **E-Mail:** director@kinderwoodcc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-20-2024

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

Date Inspected: 06-02-2023

Comments : At the time of the initial fire marshal inspection on 6/2/2023, some items were noted as needing attention. No negative action was taken as the program began and is working a plan of correction.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	20	20	20	16	76
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-07-2024

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

Not applicable

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Kinderwood Child Care Center (KCCC) is a non-profit program that has been in operation since 1987 and in their current building since 1992. The program offers year-round full-time and part-time childcare services Monday through Friday 6am-6pm for children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 65.

KCCC's director is Sydney Blashaw. Ms. Blashaw has been the director since October, 2022. Ms. Blashaw has over a year of experience working with children in licensed childcare, has a cosmetology license, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Bailee Helle. Ms. Helle has been the on-site supervisor since January 2024. Ms. Helle has experience working with children and continues to participate in required child development trainings.

On 5/20/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KCCC is a well-established program offering various childcare options to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. The program is located in a predominantly rural community of Delaware County. The program accepts a variety of funding sources. KCCC is currently celebrating their 37th year of providing childcare to the community. Congratulations!

KCCC sponsors a social media page for enrolled families. Management discussed how they are increasing KCCC's social media presence.

KCCC has a history of participation in quality initiatives including CACFP and QRS.

In October 2024, Ms. Blashaw will be celebrating her 2nd full year of being the director of KCCC. Ms. Blashaw discussed how she has become more familiar with and comfortable in the director role. Since the last review, the program obtained a new on-site supervisor Ms. Helle. The management team (e.g. Ms. Blashaw, Ms. Helle) continues to develop systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Blashaw talked about participation in NAC which provided helpful resources for developing systems of organization. Ms. Blashaw discussed how the program's written policies are in the process of being reviewed and updated.

Management reported having several seasoned staff as well as hiring a few new ones. Staff throughout the building reported celebrating 11 years, 2 years, and 1 year employment with KCCC. Ms. Blashaw talked about having 4 college-age staff, one of which is a certified lifeguard, return for employment during the 2024 summer.

Ownership of KCCC has remained consistent. KCCC is a non-profit program which operates under an active board of directors. KCCC has a maintenance person who assists with repairs. The kitchen manager has participated in ServSafe.

The board of directors, maintenance person, center chef and childcare staff collaborate well to help ensure all program areas are sanitary and hazard free each day. There is an AED machine is on-site. Over the last couple of years, the building received many refreshes including new flooring, carpets, lighting, clothes washer, clothes dryer, and stove. Since the last review, each classroom received a new mini-refrigerator and new windows and doors were installed throughout the building. Future goals are for improvements in security, outdoor play areas, 2yo restroom areas and the combined preschool-age loft area.

KCCC continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family activities have included fundraising efforts (e.g. cinnamon rolls, book fair, traveling cosmetologist, holiday haircuts, Valentine's breakfast). Notes of thanks and gratitude from families towards staff were observed to be posted in the infant room.

Classrooms have been re-arranged since the last review keeping child learning at the forefront. KCCC curriculum includes teacher-inspired ideas as well as a combination of learning strategies. Management discussed the immense planning that has gone into 2024 summer curriculum including experiences in gardening, water play, Fridays at the library, and the outdoors. Ms. Blashaw talked about future goals related to bringing in more guest speakers.

KCCC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. KCCC successfully navigated through past historic Delaware County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

KCCC collaborates well with community partners including local businesses, city council, other childcare owners/directors, health professionals, local school district, and CCR&R. KCCC is a member of the Edgewood Chamber of Commerce. KCCC has a history of applying for and achieving grants (e.g. Foundation for the Future of Delaware County) to help with building and program improvements. A past 2017 grant helped the program obtain an on-site AED while another grant allowed the program to obtain a keyless entry system. Ms. Blashaw talked about how the county health department recently reviewed immunization records.

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. This program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included Memorial Day and camping. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, center play, group book reading). Children have access to materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encourage innovative play. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, meal time rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, using positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their childcare experiences.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please ensure snack/meal place settings (e.g. cups toddler room) are cleaned and sanitized after each food service. Contents in used cups are not to be saved for the next food service.

Ensure each cabinet can properly close to help prevent finger pinching hazards or something from falling out onto a child (e.g. combined preschool-age room).

Every surface used to change diapers shall be nonporous. Do not use diaper pads (e.g. combined preschool-age room).

Do not use shelving or diaper station to block access to the combined preschool-age loft. Obtain a gate designed to secure access.

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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.