Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids West-Fairmeadows Elementary

Provider No.: 41574

Address: 807 23rd ST, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

County: Polk

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz

On-Site Supervisor: Kim Schwab

Phone Number: 5156335018

E-Mail: fmkidswest@wdmcs.org
kunza@wdmcs.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/16/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/30/2025

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires fire marshal inspections to be done at least every three years. West Des Moines typically does these inspections more frequently.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

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:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	150	150
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 9/16/26. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

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- (only briefly because of weather), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Kids West Fairmeadows is a school-age program located within the Fairmeadows Elementary School in West Des Moines. The center predominately uses the gym, cafeteria (community room), and outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open by HHS (formerly known as DHS) on 8/22/14. Previous to this date, the center was under the Department of Education's supervision. There is a before and after school component as well as a full-day component during the summer and no school days. Before school hours are 6:30am - 8:55am and after school hours are 3:55pm - 6:00pm (with the exception of early out days). Full day programming is 6:30am - 6:00pm. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 108 children.

The center is overseen by a Board and owned by the West Des Moines School District. Ashley Kunz is the director of this program and the seven other Kids West programs. Ashley has her Bachelor's degree and has past experience working in child care which includes being an area director for several programs. Kim Schwab is the on-site supervisor. Kim has her Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working for Kids West and child care in general.

NUTRITION: The school district provides all meals with the exception of no school days during the school year when children are required to bring in their own lunch. Meals served are breakfast, lunch, and a PM snack. Children eat in the

cafeteria. All food storage was sufficient. The food menu is posted for the month.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school district for all field trips. For all field trips, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is very large and consists of a concrete area, grassy area, swing area, and climbing structure area. For the climbing structure that was installed in 2025, field turf is used for surfacing. The field turf was installed in 2026. The building, trees, and the climbing structure itself provide shade. Monthly playground checks are being conducted.

During the inspection, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the gym. Children get to choose daily where they want to go and then the gym and cafeteria are staffed accordingly. There are also staff who monitor the hallway between the cafeteria and the gym as it is some distance in-between the two areas. In the cafeteria, children were engaged in free-choice play. Some children were playing with dramatic play and manipulative toys. Other groups of children were observed coloring. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more challenging child behaviors, the school/centers have a behavioral specialist on staff to assist with these more challenging situations. The center staff are also taught to communicate with each other and work together. Communication is stressed between staff, staff and children, and staff and parents. Behavioral plans are created as needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There are quarterly director meetings with other, similar programs within the western suburbs. In addition, there are weekly team lead meetings for all of the Kids West programs. There are also weekly staff meetings held at this site.

There is a secure entrance into the school during programming hours.

A nutritionist reviews all meal items.

Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate throughout different areas used by the center.

The center has a good working relationship with school personnel.

A staff person sits at a "communication desk" by the main parent board to greet parents and children and to ensure children are signed into/out of the center.

An electronic attendance tracker (Arux as of 10/2026) is used to keep track of the number of children present. Classroom DoJo is another electronic app used for extra communication with parents.

Staff pictures are posted near the main parent board.

The on-site supervisor is organized and received high praise from the director.

The on-site supervisor stated she felt staff worked really well together.

A new playground field turf was installed over the past year around the climbing structure.

The center has a lot more storage space now with the new additions.

Kids West programs have a behavioral specialist they hired who works among the eight Kids West programs.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

No below standards were identified at this year's inspection.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located in a school and only serve school-age children at the center.

I- Power was again discussed at the visit. All staff appear to have I - Power profiles and uploading training.

The swings were not observed at this year's inspection because of the rainy weather, but at last year's inspection it was noted: It is again recommended that outdoor playground floor mats be purchased and placed on the ground under the swings and bottom of slides (slides corrected with field turf installation) to help with the wood chip surfacing from becoming insufficient. One area under a swing had the black under tarp exposed which creates a potential hazard.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The center sent in their application and payment on 8/24/26.

Date: 09/16/2026

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**.