Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids Korner Childcare

Provider No.: 16652

Address: 300 West Garfield St, STE A, Laurens, IA, 50554

County: Pocahontas

Director's Name: Kristi Shannon

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7128415437

E-Mail: kidskornerlaurens@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/26/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/29/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 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	8	16	20	15	59
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Kids Korner Childcare center on 05-26-26 where I met with the center director Kristi Shannon. Kristi took over as the director of the program at the end of November, 2021and is fully qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood care and education. This program is located in the local elementary school but is overseen by a separate board of directors. The center provides daycare programming for infants through school age children. There are currently 18 children enrolled in the program served by 5 staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the facilities and classrooms remain essentially the same as in prior reports. The center makes use of two classrooms with primary programming in one room on the lower level for infants and toddlers, and one on the upper level for preschool and school age children. The center did make a change the layout of the infant/toddler space returning to using a divider created by a mobile barrier and shelving that defined separate spaces for the infants and 2-3 year old children. The room does have a large counter with multiple sinks so that one can be used for hand washing and the other for food preparation. Hot water temperatures were measured to be 134.5 deg. F. and need to be adjusted so that it is no more than 120 deg. F. when measured at the spigot with only the hot water tap on for all sinks used for handwashing. Restrooms are located outside the classroom space off a main corridor in the school, and changing stations are available in the toddler space, and infant space. The other classroom is located on an upper level and again restroom facilities are located outside the classrooms off the main corridor. During the visit one child was observed to leave the classroom unaccompanied to use the restroom despite there being additional staff present that one could have accompanied the child. While school age children are of an age that they generally do not require assistance in restrooms licensing does require that children are within direct line of sight and sound of staff at all times and staff do need to escort children to the restroom especially given that there are times where the building has open access. The room used for primary programming for the

preschool and school age children does have windows that provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each classroom makes use of furniture, and play structures to define activity centers. The arrangement is such that all areas of the rooms are readily visible with no blind areas. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate maintenance issues noted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children. This included serving the children breakfast, changing diapers, and implementing programming activities. A copy of the daily schedule was posted and the center does follow a general learning focus but a copy of the planned curriculum was not posted for the school age room. While much of the observed activities were self-directed center play the teachers were engaged with the children asking them questions about their play and making suggestions of actions to help them build various motor or cognitive skills. Each of the teachers presented an energetic and upbeat attitude. The teaches did welcome each child as they arrived and appeared to know each child and their parent on a very familiar and personal level. The center uses proactive approaches to managing behavior such as recognizing positive behaviors, and redirecting children to appropriate activity choices. Ratio was maintained with one teacher present in each classroom.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed. I was able to observe a diaper changes during the time of my visit and the teacher did follow the established procedures. Good handwashing practices were observed with staff reminding children to wash their hands and either observing or assisting children to ensure that they washed in an effective manner. Good cleaning practices were observed during the visit. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible to the children. First aid kits were present and taken as a whole had materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. There were no children napping during the time of my visit but the center did confirm that they do follow safe sleep practices.

The program does not have a separate playground space but can make use of the school playground areas. There are climbing structures with one area that is appropriate for school age children, and one that is appropriate for preschool age children. These structures were not reviewed during this visit but will be reviewed at a later date during a visit with another program housed in the building that makes more regular use of the facilities and any issues will be addressed at that time. It is noted that the school does provide all maintenance for the playground.

The center does not have a kitchen but does prepare breakfast and snacks which generally consist of non-cooked items such as cereal, toast, and prepackaged single serving items. During the visit it was noted that dry pantry items were not properly stored with several bags of bulk packaged items having been rolled closed. Lunch is prepared by the school cafeteria during the school year, and as part of the Summer Lunch program which is open to the community during the summer. The teachers do sit and eat with the children. A copy of the planned menu was present and did identify a good variety of food options.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors at the main program office. All child files were reviewed and were generally found to contain all required information. Some needed updated physicals but those had just expired within the last month. The center did have response plans for children with some identified health concerns such as food allergies but does need to expand this to ensure they have response plans for all identified health concerns. The center was also not completing infant daily sheets for children over 12 months of age. In reviewing staff files all were found to have an expired/missing Iowa SING and national FBI Fingerprint background check results could not be located. Additionally each was missing one or more required trainings. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Fire and Tornado drills which had not been completed since August 2025. The center does have a radon mitigation system and renewed testing is required every 2 years to ensure that the system is functioning properly. The parent handbook was reviewed and several policies were missing or needed to be expanded in the most recent update.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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109.4(1): Written policies on: Enrollment and discharge. Field trips and non-center activities. Discipline/Behavior/Biting. Nutrition. Health and safety policies. Transportation if applicable. Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center. Protecting children's confidentiality.
-- Written polices were missing or needed to be expanded to include all required information for Field Trips, Transportation, Discipline, Health & Safety (major/minor injury, handwashing, safe sleep, immunization exemptions, response plans), Incident Reports (significant change, sexual behavior), Staff Orientation & Training, Biting, and Emergency Plans.

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check. Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
-- Documentation of current Iowa SING and National FBI fingerprint based checks could not be found for any employee.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Documentation was missing for 3 employees.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Documentation of current certification or on-going training was missing for one or more elements for each employee.

109.9(3): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include: The time periods in which the child has slept. The amount of food consumed and the times at which the child has eaten. The time of and any irregularities in the child's elimination patterns. The general disposition of the child. A general summary of the activities in which the child participated.
-- Documentation was not being completed for infants after turning 1 year of age.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, telephone numbers; and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood (if area is susceptible to floods) must be visibly posted by all program and outdoor exits. Emergency plan procedures must be practiced and documented at least once a month for fire and for tornado. Records on the practice of fire and tornado drills must be maintained for the current and previous year.
-- Emergency drills were not conducted and/or documented for fire or tornado evacuation since August 2025.

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- One child was observed to be allowed to leave the classroom unattended to use the restroom. Careful supervision is interpreted to mean that children must remain within sight and sound at all times.

109.11(2)a: The center will provide sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture. It must meet the developmental, activity and special needs of the children.
-- Items and toys with small parts that can break off which would be less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are considered choking hazards and were present in classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. A prohibited infant walker was present in the infant classroom and must be removed. Hot water temperatures must be adjusted so that measured temperatures do not exceed 120 deg. F. at the spigot with only the hot water tap open.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- Several bulk packaged dry pantry items were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal had been broken.

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

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A list of all required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided to the center with specific notation of the policies that were missing or needed to be expanded identified.

Kristi acknowledged that staff files were incomplete due to some information that had been obtained having not yet been filed. A plan of correction was agreed to that the center would provide verification of background checks, and other missing documentation by 06-12-26. If background checks cannot be verified by that date they shall be renewed. If other documentation cannot be verified Kristi shall establish a plan with a specific compliance date to obtain documentation.

Clarification was provided regarding documenting daily information for infants as including all children under 24 months of age.

The infant walker was removed on the day visit, and Kristi stated she would have staff review other toys and equipment in the infant and two year old classrooms. Kristi stated she would notify the school maintenance department regarding the water temperatures.

5. 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 by 06-12-26. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 06/01/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.