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

Name of Center: Kidsville Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 198 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19197

Street: 1009 First St W **City:** Independence Iowa **Zip** 50644 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: 1009 First St W, Independence, IA, 50644

Director's Name: Kelly Walton **Phone Number:** 319-334-4286

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Hocken & Cyndi Jensen **E-Mail:** director.kidsville@indytel.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-10-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-29-2024

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

Date Inspected: 12-08-2021

Comments : Compliance on 12/22/21

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	36	18	55	36	145
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-15-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/10/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Kidsville Early Learning Center in Independence. I met with Kelly Walton, the director. Ms. Walton has a BA in marketing and advertising and a minor in communications/public relations. Ms. Walton has the National Administrator Credential (NAC). She has been with the program since February 2016. Ashley Hocken is the on-site supervisor and assistant director. Cyndi Jensen is an additional on-site supervisor. She is the lead teacher in the infant room and has been with the program since January 2007. The center has 39 employees.

Kidsville Early Learning Center is a non-profit program. It has been in operation since 1977 and in the current location since 1996. The center is located inside the Independence Community Schools Early Childhood Education Center and it is located on the Independence Community School grounds next to East Elementary School. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 198 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room (two weeks through 12-14 months), toddler room (12-14 months until 24 months), two-year-old room, three-year-old childcare room, three-year-old preschool room, four and five-year-old room and a school-age space. The center also has a four-year-old state voluntary preschool room, but this room is regulated through the Department of Education and not licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. The three-year-old preschool program operates Monday through Thursday and offers a morning class from 8:15-11:15 am and an afternoon class from 12:00-3:00 pm. Ashley Conklin is the teacher of the three-year-old class. She has an AA in early childhood education. An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and some had pictures of the families. There is an area for circle time in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, puppets, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number were posted in all rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The three-year-old preschool class primarily uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Ms. Conklin completes the Brigance assessments on the children. The other rooms use the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources to develop lesson plans. A lesson plan was available for review in each room.

Daily sheets are being maintained in the infant and toddler rooms. The infant room uses paper copies of the form and the toddler room uses the ProCare app to communicate with families and document the mandated areas. Owlets are being used in the infant room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in the laundry area off the kitchen, the school-age space and the kitchenette of the infant room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/08/21 with compliance on 12/22/22.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Rory Ratchford is the cook and she is making a new menu each week with the help of Ms. Walton. Menus and allergies were posted. Most children eat in their classrooms. The three-year-old preschool class eats in the dining area of the school-age space. Family style is being used in the two-year-old room depending on what is being served. The children three-years-old and older use family style.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The kitchen is inspected by the health department every six months. The center uses an industrial dishwasher for the dishes. The dishwasher is inspected and sanitized by Martin Brothers every month. There are also sinks to wash the dishes. There is an upright freezer, an industrial refrigerator and an industrial freezer. Thermometers were present. There is one handwashing sink and handwashing procedures were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room, the program provides one brand of formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Ms. Jensen states most parents choose to bring their own formula and baby food. There is a kitchenette off the infant room. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. There is a food prep sink. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized at the end of the day.

The rooms use bleach and water or Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize food tables. Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant is used to disinfect diaper changing tables. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures are posted in the mandated areas.

Cribs are used for naps in the infant room and cots are used in the other rooms.

I observed diaper changes and staff members are using proper procedures.

Children have access to one of four outdoor playgrounds depending on the child's age. There is an infant/toddler area, a two-year-old area, a preschool area and school-age area.

The infant/toddler area has a concrete path and a grassy area. There is a tarp for shade and a shade shelter over the sandbox. There are riding toys, pushing toys, dramatic play equipment, small slides and a basketball hoop.

In the two-year-old area rubber tiles are used for fall surface under a piece of climbing equipment that has slides. There is a sandbox covered by a shade shelter and a tree for shade. There is dramatic play equipment, playhouses and bench for the children to rest.

The preschool area has rubber tiles are used for fall surface under a piece of climbing equipment that has a slide, monkey bars and other activities. There are tires for the children to crawl on or walk across. There is a concrete path, a sensory table, a playhouse, a music center and a pergola shade structure over a sandbox. There is also a tunnel for the children to crawl through. There is a bench and picnic table for the children to rest.

The school-age area has rubber tiles are used for fall surface under a piece of climbing equipment that has slides and other activities. There are tires for the children to crawl on or walk across. There is a concrete path and a playhouse. There is a sandbox covered by a shade shelter. Trees also provide shade. There is a picnic table for the children to rest.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 15 children files. Parents must provide one person other than themselves to contact in case of an emergency. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Three files did not provide phone numbers for the emergency doctor or dentist. If the parent provides you the name of a doctor and dentist you can fill in the phone number.

I reviewed four staff files. They were in good condition. One staff member had an outdated mandatory reporter training. There was not a pattern of disregard. This will not be cited.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Several staff members are experienced and have worked together as a team. They have fun and creative activities for the children to help teach them learn. Staff members provide clear and easy to understand directions to the children. Staff members are enthusiastic and provide the children with praise. Staff members provided great reminders for the children to wash their hands. Staff members sang with the children while they washed their hands. They had conversations with the children about sharing. They had conversations about using good manners. Staff members provide the children with choices and were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members used play to teach the children about colors, letters and counting. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children enjoyed their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Walton states they added cameras to the playground areas and the front door. They also installed “lock down” doors in all the rooms. The program is in a secured building and there were already cameras in each room. The school has cameras on the outside of the building.

The center is in the process of completing steps to apply for an IQ4K level 1.

Ms. Walton states they sectioned off part of the infant room with a gate for safety reasons. The cribs and highchairs are on one side of the barrier and a large play area is on the other.

The center has organized easy to read staff and children files and an organized licensing binder.

The center has a Facebook page.

Accomplishments:
Continue to work on the community steering committee for childcare.
Maintain a full workforce and full capacity center.
Hired a regular maintenance man.
Put new cubbies in the toddler room.

Goals:
Continue steering committee to determine how they can help the childcare crisis.
Be a level one or two for IQ4K.
Remodel the two-year-old room bathroom.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.