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

Name of Center: KinderCare Learning Center #292 **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24356

Street: 5351 N Park PL NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 5351 N Park PL NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Laura Cook **Phone Number:** 319-377-8607

On-Site Supervisor(s): Stormie Graham (assistant director) **E-Mail:** 300292@klcorp.com, lacook@kindercare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-01-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other 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	17	33	5	91
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2022 to 03-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-15-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KinderCare Learning Centers (KLC) are part of the national KinderCare Education enterprise. KLC were founded in 1969 and have continued to provide childcare programming for over 50 years. KLC provides educational programs for children from six weeks to 12 years old. These nationwide educational programs include over 1,000 early childhood education community centers, over 500 before-and-after school programs, and over 100 employer sponsored centers in 38 states and the District of Columbia. KinderCare Education enrolls approximately 200,000 children and employs approximately 30,000 people nationwide. This report pertains specifically to KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292. KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 has been in operation for many years. KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 operates year-round, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. The program serves primarily infants through preschool-age children. Current enrollment is 50.

Director of KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 is Laura Cook. Ms. Cook has been employed with KinderCare since 2011 and been the director of this site since March 2014. Ms. Cook has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Child Development Associate Credential in Preschool. Stormie Graham has been the program's new assistant director/on-site supervisor since January 2023. Ms. Graham has an AA degree in early childhood education, over 9 years experience working with children and continues to participate much in child development related training.

On 2/7/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 is located in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of full-time and part-time learning opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: http://www.kindercare.com/our-centers/cedar-rapids/ia/300292.

The mission of this KinderCare is "…to provide programs and environments that enrich children's development, promote respect for children, and celebrate the joy of childhood".

KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 has a history of participating in quality initiatives including a national accreditation, QRS, CACFP and a local quality initiative. The program has achieved NAEYC accreditation through 10/1/2025 and obtained QRS 4-star. Ms. Cook discussed future goals of continued participation in quality initiatives.

Director of KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 has remained consistent with adding a new assistant director/on-site supervisor since the last review. In 2023, Ms. Cook will be celebrating her 12th year of employment with KinderCare. Congratulations! Ms. Graham has been with KinderCare for over 5 years and in her current assistant director position for about 1 month. The management team (Ms. Cook, Ms. Graham and additional on-site supervisors) is organized and has

noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Cook discussed the collaboration that is done among local as well as national KinderCare sites that allows for a sharing of materials, curriculum, ideas/planning, professional development and various cohorts.

Since the last monitoring visit, the program has retained as well as hired some new staff. Ms. Cook discussed how KLC has provided their program with a specific recruiter to help with staffing needs. Ms. Cook indicated the program continues to use a group chat App for staff and management teams to "Shout Out" to one another by sharing successes and unique programming ideas with one another. Ms. Cook discussed how KinderCare made 2022 the "Year of the Teacher" with KinderCare offering more training opportunities, new retention incentives, additional teacher appreciation/acknowledgment, continued family/staff referral/incentive program, continued no cost staff educational development, and the continued partnerships with the TEACH and WAGE$ programs.

KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County historic flood, the 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event (with site specific temporary closure/repairs from 8/10/2020 until 2/16/2021), and the 2019 pandemic.

KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 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 (e.g. unique "Grow Me App"), and supports family programming activities. The program does offer family events throughout the year including open houses, parent/program conferences, access to family ambassadors, and program/parent "Care Calls".

To help ensure the building remains sanitary and hazard free each day, KinderCare has maintenance persons (e.g. indoor and outdoor) who assist in maintaining the property. Since the last review, the outdoor playground fence was modified to provide some privacy. With lower enrollment, the center has been able to create a temporary much enjoyed indoor large gross motor space for use on inclement weather days. Ms. Cook discussed how new name-to-face child supervision records/forms were established and being implemented. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum (e.g. Attention grabbing staff created dinosaur volcano experience noted in the combined-age preschool room!) includes a combination of learning strategies incorporating KinderCare's unique curriculum, teacher-created ideas, social emotional learning, early academics, and physical activity to nurture healthy bodies, happy hearts, and growing minds. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events, themed days, and holiday/seasonal parties. Communication between children and staff is done verbally, with picture cues, and through sign language. KinderCare's Learning Adventures enrichment opportunities also continue to offer additional experiences in music, phonics, art, cooking, and STEM.

KinderCare Learning Center (East) #292 collaborates well with community partners including the local school districts, early access persons, local businesses, CCR&R, other childcare programs/directors, NAEYC administration and health professionals

The infant room has a “no shoe” policy.

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. Staff were observed engaged in handwashing and encouraging child handwashing. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning supplies as well as cleaning checklists/reminders were observed in various areas onsite.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included Valentines and dinosaurs. Activities observed throughout the classrooms were many (e.g. infant cares, group circle with book reading, center play opportunities). Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, sensory, puzzles, games, crafts) that encouraged innovative play with opportunities for problem solving and creativity. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, offering positive redirection when needed, and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Areas of heavy mud and poor drainage were observed on the outdoor playground (e.g. where artificial turf is supposed to meet lawn grass, behind the building). Children are not able to fully enjoy the outdoor space when such vast areas of mud are present. Areas where grass has not taken root shall have lawn sod laid down or an intense reseeding in spring 2023. This will help ensure ample enjoyment of the outdoor play area in the coming warmer months. Please provide licensing with photographs documenting the remedies.

There is an expanding gap between the outdoor fence and the cushion surface border on the young child playground. The gap presents a muddy entrapment and trip/fall hazard. Remedy.

Continue to offer multiple opportunities for new staff to shadow and/or observe seasoned staff modeling daily routines (e.g. food service preparations, lunch routines older infant area, transition time/activities, circle/group discussion).

Ensure each child has an IDPH Certificate of Immunization or IDPH Certificate of Immunization Waiver on file. A doctor's office printout of immunizations does not meet Iowa Code.

Please forward via email the annual fuel burning appliance inspection report to licensing upon receipt.

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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.