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

Name of Center: Kinderwood CCC **Enrollment:** 83 **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): Mikhaela Farmer **E-Mail:** director@kinderwoodcc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-03-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-15-2023

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 83.

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 Mikhaela Farmer. Ms. Farmer has been the on-site supervisor since May 2023. Ms. Farmer has over 5 years experience working with children in licensed childcare and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 5/3/2023, 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 36th 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 past participation in QRS. The program is eligible to and does participate in CACFP. Ms. Blashaw discussed several future goals including possible participation in IQ4K.

Since the last review, KCCC has obtained a new management team (e.g. Ms. Blashaw, Ms. Farmer). The new management team is working to maintain and improve various systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Blashaw talked about recent review of all immunization certificates that was completed by the county health department. Ms. Blashaw reported future goals include reviewing all files and updating written policies and procedures.

Management discussed hiring several new staff as well as procedures for onboarding and orienting new employees. Staff throughout the building reported celebrating 16 years, 1 year, 2 months and 1 month of employment with KCCC. Ms. Blashaw and Ms. Farmer talked about the appreciation they have for their devoted team of employees. An "employee spotlight" posting area with notes of gratitude was observed. Management discussed how many families have commented on appreciating the inviting atmosphere within the building.

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. There is an AED machine is on-site. A new kitchen manager with ServSafe has been hired. The board of directors, maintenance person, chef and childcare staff collaborate well to help ensure all program areas are sanitary and hazard free each day. Since the last review, the building received many refreshes including new flooring, carpets, lighting, clothes washer, clothes dryer, and stove. Postings are also updated. Ms. Blashaw reported the building is having new doors and windows installed in June, 2023. Future goals are related to solar panels and outdoor play area improvements.

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, wear sunglasses for $1, local garage sale) and the desire to have a volunteer fundraising committee.

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. Week of the Young Child 2023 celebration included a Music Monday, Work Together Wednesday, and Tasty Thursday with events as well for childcare staff appreciation week. Management discussed the immense planning that has gone into 2023 summer curriculum including making and flying kites, on-site water/sensory play experiences, and off-site walking swimming pool excursions. Management talked about many changes that have occurred to the daily schedule to incorporate increase weekly craft experiences (e.g. Spring Do-It Yourself Bird House Kits), infant outdoor time (e.g. stroller rides, outdoor story time), library visits, and picnic opportunities. Ms. Blashaw also talked about KCCC's possible participation in the upcoming Edgewood Pro Rodeo Days Parade.

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, the 2019 Polar Vortex and the 2019 (Covid-19) health pandemic.

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.

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, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. 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 flowers, plants and caterpillars. Clever caterpillar counting art and tissue paper trees were observed in the toddler room! Children have access to materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encourage innovative play. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, center play, group book reading). 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. 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:

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. Please forward the updated fire marshal certificate once it's issued documenting the corrections.

_____

The program's license remains in full status. 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.