Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids West-Crossroads Elementary

Provider No.: 41573

Address: 1050 50th St, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz

On-Site Supervisor: Taylor Jorgensen

Phone Number: 5156335018

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

HHS Visit Date: 08/26/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/16/2025

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requirements are that these inspections be completed at least every three years. The city of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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 8/26/26. The director and the 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, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Kids West Crossroads is a school-age program located within the Crossroads Elementary School in West Des Moines. The center predominately uses the gym, cafeteria, media center (sparingly), and outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open under HHS supervision (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.

The center is overseen by a Board and owned by the West Des Moines School District. Ashley Kunz is the director of this program as well as the seven other related programs. Ashley has a Bachelor's degree and has past experience working in child care which includes being an area director of a program with multiple child care locations. Taylor Jorgensen is the new on-site supervisor as of 8/24/26, but has worked for Kids West for several years. Melissa has several years of experience working in child care as well as professional development training to meet the requirements for on-site supervisor.

NUTRITION: The center serves breakfast, lunch, and a PM snack to children. All meals are prepared by the West Des

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Moines School District Nutrition Department. For the first week of school, the food menu is posted for the week, but it is typically posted for the month. All food items met CACFP requirements. Food storage was sufficient.

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

PLAYGROUND: The center only uses a few areas of the large playground. There are swings, a climbing structure, ball pit, blacktop area, and grassy area that the center uses. No issues were noted with any of the equipment. It is recommended that outdoor playground mats be placed at the bottom of slides to help preserve the wood chip surfacing. The climbing structure area has poured in place rubber for surfacing. Monthly playground checks are being recorded.

During the inspection, all children were in the cafeteria playing at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were spaced out and interacting with children. Staff were observed visiting with parents when they came to pick up their children. Children questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills as some children attended here during the summer months as well. Toys and other equipment are being sanitized daily.

For more difficult child behaviors, communication and teamwork is stressed. This includes between staff, parents, and children. All of the Kids West programs have a behavioral specialist who works between all eight schools to address any issues.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The director of the Kids West programs meets/talks with other directors of other western suburb school programs for meeting throughout the year.

The on-site supervisor also has weekly meeting with other Kids West on-site supervisors.

Monthly staff meetings are held at this center between the on-site supervisor and her staff.

Staff pictures are posted near the main parent board.

A nutritionist reviews all meal items. The center provides breakfast lunch, and a PM snack for children through their food department.

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

The center has a good working relationship with other school personnel.

A staff person sits at a "communication desk" checking children into/out of the center and greets parents.

Staff reportedly work well together.

The director and on-site supervisor have many years of experience working in child care.

The director and on-site supervisor believe they have a variety of activities every day for children to participate in.

The director and on-site supervisor believe they have a good group of kids and families they serve.

The Kids West programs have a staff specialist who goes to the different programs throughout the week and assist children who need more one on one care.

All Kids West programs use the electronic app, Eleyo, for increased communication with parents. It was noted this will change to ARUX sometime in the Fall.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
One staff member was short on hours over the past year.

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.
One staff member was missing a current physical in their file.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
November 2025 fire drills were not recorded. It was noted that this was before the current on-site supervisor was in place. All other drills in 2025 and to date in 2026 were recorded.

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.

I - Power was discussed at the visit. All staff should continue to upload all of their training certificates into their profiles in I - Power.

It is again recommended outdoor playground mats be purchased and placed under the swings. This will help preserve wood chip surfacing and depth.

With school just starting this week, it was noted staff are in the process of taking some professional development hours needed throughout the year.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application along with payment has been sent in.

Date: 08/28/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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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**.