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

Name of Center: Kids Korner Childcare **Enrollment:** 15 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16652

Street: 300 West Garfield St, STE A **City:** Laurens Iowa **Zip** 50554 **County:** Pocahontas

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

Director's Name: Kristi Shannon **Phone Number:** 712-841-5437

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kidskornerlaurens@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-20-2023, 07-17-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 10-06-2020

Comments :

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	8	16	20	15	59
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-17-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Kids Korner Childcare center on 06-20-23 where I met with Kelsey Ruthart as the center director Kristi Shannon was not ine. 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 15 children enrolled in the program served by 5 teachers. 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. Each room was observed to be clean. There were some minor maintenance needs with some that did not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern such as damaged paint and drywall. Others did need to be addressed immediately which included damaged and missing electrical switch plates and outlet covers that allowed access to the energized wires. The infant/toddler room is divided into two areas by a movable fence system with one side for infants and the other for toddlers. Due to decreased attendance the toddler side was being used for programming for all children 24 months of age and older. There is also a small room off the infant side that serves as a sleeping room for the infants. The space does have several exits including one that provides direct egress to the outdoors. 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. 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. The room used for primary programming for the preschool and school age children does have a window that provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation.

Each classroom makes use of low shelves, 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 activity center provides the children with room to move and play. Toys and materials in the classrooms were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children of the intended use groups. As noted all of the children over 24 months of age had been combined into the space on the lower level used for the two year old children. While many of the toys and materials were not engaging to the older children the staff did have some materials that were appropriate for the preschool age children present. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were present. The curriculum theme for the week was "S'More Fun". Good interactions were observed with the teachers being engaged with the children attending to their needs, and providing supervision. Good behavior management techniques were used with the teachers providing redirection and using "thank you/no thank you" reminders to identify appropriate and inappropriate choices. On the day of the visit there were 12 children present with 4 under 24 months of age the youngest child being 20 months of age. There were 3 staff present which allowed for ratio to be maintained and include an extra staff as required for when the children attended activities off-site.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed. I was able to observe several diaper changes during the time of my visit and procedures do need to be reviewed. Staff did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials, did not

wash the infants hands following the diaper change, and did not properly clean the changing station following diapering. In addition one child was provided with a toy to during the diaper change which was then returned to the programming area. It was reviewed that children should not be provided with toys during diapering but if they are they should be cleaned before returning them to programming use. In addition it was observed that not all of the children washed their hands immediately before eating lunch. Over the counter medications were labeled with the name of the individual to who whom it belonged. The center does not have any children that are currently taking any prescription medications or which have any diagnosed allergies but does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. 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 sufficiently stocked to address most common first aid needs. Cots were arranged so that there was sufficient spacing to allow access and reduce disease transmission. The sleeping room was observed to be using night lights which provided insufficient lighting for the staff to be able to observe the children and determine if they were distress but this was alleviated by opening the door to allow more light from the hallway. Bedding is needed for all cots used for sleeping.

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.

Breakfast and Lunch are prepared by the school cafeteria, and snacks are prepared by the program. During the school year the children do eat in the school lunch room during the same time that the school age children eat but they sit at separate tables that are sized to their needs. The teachers do sit and eat with the children. During the summer the program makes use of the School Summer Lunch Program but follows the same practice of sitting separate from community members. A copy of the planned menu was posted and followed.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A full review of files could not be made given that Kristi was not in on the day of my visit. The center did have a binder of parental contact and authorizations which was available for the children and all of those records were reviewed and found to be current for all children. All staff files were unavailable and a request was made for Kristi to provide an inventory of the required elements for each employee file which was received on 07-14-23. The information provided showed all employee files to contain all required documentation. Inspection logs and certificates were available in a binder and all were available and up to date. The center policy handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center continues to be a valuable resource to the community.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- Missing switch and outlet covers need to be replaced to reduce the risk of electrical shock. Bedding, including a fitted sheet is required for all cots, mats, and cribs.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- Staff did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials. Children's hands were not washed following diapering. Changing stations were not properly cleaned following diapering. The required changing procedures posting was not present at the changing station.

V. 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. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.