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

Name of Center: Kids West-Fairmeadows Elementary **Enrollment:** 105 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 41574

Street: 807 23rd ST **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3550 Mills Civic PKWY, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz **Phone Number:** 515-633-5018

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kim Schwab **E-Mail:** fmkidswest@wdmcs.org
kunz.kunza@wdmcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-01-2024

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 09-09-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-15-2023

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires fire marshal inspections to be done at least every three years. West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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	0	0	0	150	150
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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 10-01-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 10/1/24. The director and 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 Fairmeadows is a school-age program located within the Fairmeadows Elementary School in West Des Moines. The center predominately uses the gym, cafeteria (community room), media center, and outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open by HHS (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 new director of this program and the seven other Kids West programs. Ashley has her Bachelor's degree and has past experience working in child care which includes being an area director for several programs. Kim Schwab is the on-site supervisor. Kim has her Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working for Kids West and child care in general.

During the visit, children were observed in the cafeteria and outdoor playground area. In the cafeteria, children were divided into smaller groups and playing with the learning stations made available to them. One child was observed being tended to for minor first-aid. On the playground, children were again in different groups and playing on climbing structures and the blacktop area. Staff were spaced out in the cafeteria and the gym and interacting with children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There are quarterly director meetings with other, similar programs within the western suburbs. In addition, there are weekly team lead meetings for all of the Kids West Programs.

There is a secure entrance into the school during programming hours.

A nutritionist reviews all meal items.

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

The center has a good working relationship with school personnel.

A staff person sits at a "communication desk" by the main parent board to greet parents and children and to ensure children are signed into/out of the center.

An electronic attendance tracker (Eleyo) is used to keep track of the number of children present. Classroom DoJo is another electronic app used for extra communication with parents.

Staff pictures are posted near the main parent board.

The on-site supervisor is organized.

The on-site supervisor stated she felt staff worked really well together.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The center has a lot more storage space now with the new additions.

Kids West programs now have behavioral specialists they hired who work among the eight Kids West programs.

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. THE PLAYGROUND IS A REPEAT ISSUE NOW FOR THREE YEARS IN A ROW.
1. The "S" hooks on the swings need to be closed.
2. More wood chips are needed under slides and particularly the swings. The black under-tarp needs to be cut/removed under some slides as it is a hazard.
3. One green piece on the large climbing structure needs a new bolt on one part as it is loose.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located in a school and only serve school-age children at the center.

For field trips, the center contracts with the school district for transportation.

IQ4K and I- Power were previously discussed at the visit. Staff will need to upload training certificates.

It is again recommended that outdoor playground floor mats be purchased and placed on the ground under the swings and bottom of slides to help with the wood chip surfacing from becoming insufficient.

The center's Emergency Preparedness Plan needs to have phone numbers updated which includes this consultant's phone number.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.