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

Name of Center: KidQuest Preschool and Daycare **Enrollment:** 73 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21897

Street: 427 Nash St **City:** Aplington Iowa **Zip** 50604 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 427 Nash St, Aplington, IA, 50604

Director's Name: Ann Cutshall **Phone Number:** 319-347-6366

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kidquest427@gmail.com, kquestboard@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-12-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 05-12-2025

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

Date Inspected: 08-28-2024

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	14	14	48	11	87
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 06-16-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Kidquest Child Care and Preschool in Aplington on 006-12-25 where I met with center director Ann Cutshall. Anm became the director in the fall of 2023 and is well qualified for the position with an extensive history of formal education, experience, and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The program is located in a free standing building that appears to have been designed as a daycare. The program is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a board of directors. The center provides full range child care serving infants through school-aged children, formal 3 year old preschool, and also partners with the local school system to provide the state wide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. There are approximately 73 children enrolled in the daycare and preschool programs served by 15 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms, and programming remains the same as in prior visits. The classrooms are determined by age groups. of infants, 2 year olds, 3 year olds 4/5, and school age. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has a secondary emergency exit that provides direct egress to the outdoors. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each classroom has access to restroom facilities directly from the room. The infant and toddler rooms have changing stations present in the room. Additional sinks are available in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. The required diapering and handwashing procedures postings were present by all changing stations and sinks used for handwashing. The infant room has a central counter that divides the space with primary programming on one side, and cribs on the other. Small refrigeration units were present in classrooms. Each room was observed to be clean with only a few minor maintenance issues that did not present a safety concern. Each classroom is arranged with activity centers that are created though the placement of shelving units, furniture, and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. A copy of daily schedule and planned curriculum was posted for each classroom and included a general focus of Father's Day.

Good engagement and interactions were generally observed on the day of my visit. The center was down in the number of children attending that day and so had combined classrooms and sent extra staff home keeping just the infant room, and a combined ages group of all other children. In the infant room the staff were attentive to the children's care needs such as changing diapers, and feeding the children. The classroom does have a large number of self-contained saucers, bouncers, etc. but the children present were generally older and so spent much of their time playing on the floor with various toys. The teachers in the classroom did spend some time on the floor with the children, and other time in adult rockers providing more observational supervision. In the older age classroom the teachers followed a modified curriculum plan after combining the classrooms but did continue to follow a schedule with a video based group story time, then a teacher lead music and movement activity, and the child directed center play. The center uses a positive support system of behavior management with teachers using using transition activities, reminders of expected behavior, and redirecting children as needed. Ratio was maintained in the classrooms as required by age. While the toddler and preschool classrooms were not used on the day of the visit those rooms were reviewed. There were toys in the toddler room which had small parts that could easily break off which would be less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length which would be considered choking hazards that need to be removed from classroom serving children under 3 years of age and placed in storage where they can be brought out for supervised play for children 3 years of age.

Good health and safety policies were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. During the time of my visit I was able to observe a diaper change and staff did follow the required procedures. One issue that was noted was the infant room does have two trash cans that would allow for maintaining diapers separate from other waste but the trash can used for the diapers had a broken lid so staff were placing all items in the other trash can. Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers assisting the children as needed. When cleaning children following snack service the teachers did use separate clean wash clothes for each child. Chemical cleaners, personal items, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. First aid kits are kept in each classroom and contained a good supply of materials to address most common first aid needs. Medication lock boxes are kept in each classroom and did contain some over the counter medications which were properly labeled and stored. Cribs, cots and mats were used for those children that nap. Some crib mattresses were observed to have tears in the waterproof covering and need to be replaced. Sheet covers were present for both cribs and cots, but one crib sheet was observed to be too small and pulling at the edges of the mattress and another that was too large allowing the material to gather. Improperly fitted sheets need to be removed and replaced. In blankets in several cribs and while the teachers identified that those children were over 1 year of age and so would not be subject to the requirements of safe sleep it was reviewed that this practice is not recommended and the best time to introduce blankets, pillows, and other items is when children transition to cots. Good feeding positioning was observed for infants with staff either using high chairs, or holding children in an upright position when lap feeding.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). A menu was posted and identified a good variety of nutritious food options. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no indication of insect or rodent infestation. Food storage practices do need to be reviewed in both the kitchen and classrooms. Several bulk bag packaged items were observed to have been stored with the bag rolled closed. All food items regardless of whether intended for child consumption or not must be stored in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the contents and date placed in storage once the original packaging seal has been broken. Meals are served in the classrooms and good food handling practices were observed. The staff used food service gloves and measured scoops when serving meals, and staff did cut items into smaller bite sized pieces for younger children and infants. Supervision was provided at the tables.

The center playground is fully fenced and divided into two areas with one that contains larger climbing structures and equipment for the older children, and the other with a grassy area and materials for the younger children. has had some renovations with the addition of a climbing structure and wood chip fall surfacing in the toddler playground area. The play equipment in both areas was observed to be in good repair although the climbing structure for the older children did have some hardware that needed to be tightened but which did not present an immediate safety concern. The center has an paved patio area that the children can use for riding toys, sidewalk chalk, or other activities, and a paved basketball court. Wood chips are used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures and a good depth of material was present with the center having removed and replaced the fall surfacing due to composting that had occured over the years. A gazebo shelter, and an awning is present along with large mature trees to provide shade. A storage shed is present where additional toys and materials can be stored.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices and postings were present in areas that were readily visible to parents and visitors. The center is using a communication and electronic file maintenance application to provide information to parents, and maintain child and staff records. A random selection of the child and staff files were reviewed and compared to the self audit generated by the electronic application which was found to be accurate. The review and self audit of the children's files identified 6 that needed an updated physical. The review and self-audit identified 2 staff that needed a updated FBI Fingerprint background check. Inspection logs and certificates were reviewed and found to be present and current for all required elements. The center handbook was reviewed and contains all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ann identified that the center is working toward becoming certified in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

Ann reported that the center has completed several updates and renovations such as those noted for the playground, painting, and obtaining storage cubbies for infant car seats. The center is working to complete grant applications for continued improvements that include replacing windows.

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

109.12(4) ? Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing. ? Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that

conforms with CPSC or ASTM. Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children. Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children. Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap. Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.
Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Crib sheets that are not properly fitted to mattresses need to be removed and replaced. Crib mattresses that have torn waterproof covers need to be removed and replaced. Toys and items that would be considered choking hazards need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Loose hardware on outdoor playground equipment needs to be tightened.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- Not all foods were properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the contents and date placed in storage after the original packaging seal had been broken.

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.