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

Name of Center: West Des Moines KinderCare **Enrollment:** 73 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51503

Street: 865 S 51st ST **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 865 S 51st ST, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Maria Gifford **Phone Number:** 515-267-1951

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lauren Winders **E-Mail:** maria.gifford@kindercare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-21-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-17-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-02-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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	24	38	48	27	137
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: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 08-26-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

West Des Moines KinderCare opened on 8/31/21. This daycare is one of many daycares owned and operated by the nationwide corporation KinderCare Education. This child care center is located in a single standing building that has a secured entrance. The center provides child care services for children ages infancy through preschool. The center has several classrooms in addition to a small indoor gym. The district manager of the center is Rachel Ross. Maria Gifford is the director. Maria has been the director since December 2021. Maria had several years of experience in child care prior to coming to KinderCare. Lauren Winders is the assistant director. She's been the assistant director since September 2022. She qualifies to serve in this capacity.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to DHHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place in the center's entrance. Classroom schedules and lesson plans are posted by classroom doors. Classrooms are well supplied with age appropriate furnishings, supplies and toys. Classrooms have well defined interest centers.

Two unannounced visits were completed, on 7/21/23 and 8/23/23. Lauren Winders assisted with the visit on 7/21/23. Classroom observations were completed on that date. Administrative records were reviewed with Maria Gifford on 8/23/23.

On 7/23/23, the visit was held in the afternoon. Infant classrooms were combined. There was one infant classroom open. There were nine infants present. Three staff were working in this classroom. The toddler classrooms were combined. Ten children were present. Two staff were working with this group. The 2's class had eleven children present. There were two staff working with the 2's. The 2's were combined during part of the visit. The 3's - 5's were combined. There were twenty five children present. Three staff working with this class. Children were observed in classrooms, in the gym and on the playgrounds. Children were involved in child directed play in centers in the classrooms. In the gym and playground, children were playing large motor games with staff and also child directed play. Staff were observed to be actively engaged with children throughout the visit.

The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are on a four week rotation. Menus reviewed showed compliance with CACFP requirements.

The center has several playgrounds. The playgrounds have fencing. There is poured rubber for required surfacing material. The center completes monthly playground checklists.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KinderCare child care centers are well supported by KinderCare management . West Des Moines KinderCare will participate in the QRS quality initiative program in the future. The classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate furnishings, learning supplies and toys. The center receives the menus and Early Foundations Learning Curriculum lesson planning for all classrooms.

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

109.8(2)c: Children between 18 months and 3 years of age may be combined, if appropriate to the developmental needs of the child. If a child under 2 years is combined, the staff ratio of 1 to 7 shall be maintained, otherwise staff ratio may be determined by the age of majority of the children in the group.
One of the 2's classes was on the same playground with the 3's - 5's group.
During opening and closing times, the center has had 2's through 5's start their day in the gym.
Ratio rules of 2022 were explained and the center will discontinue their opening and closing practice. They will also not have 2's classes on the same playground with 4/5's classes.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

*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.