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

Name of Center: KidsPoint Downtown Learning Center & Preschool **Enrollment:** 89 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25070

Street: 318 5th ST SE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52401 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 318 5th ST SE, Cedar Rapids , IA, 52401

Director's Name: Christine "Chris" Hamor **Phone Number:** 319-365-1458

On-Site Supervisor(s): Christine "Chris" Hamor **E-Mail:** abwagner@waypointservices.org, chris.hamor@waypointservices.org

Date(s) of Visit: 03-04-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-19-2023

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	48	46	60	159	313
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 03-19-2025

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KidsPoint Downtown Learning Center & Preschool (KPDLCP) was built and commenced operations in 1999. This program operates year-round, Monday through Friday. The program offers part-time and full-time childcare to children age infant through preschool-age. The program may have the ability to offer a school-age component at various times throughout the year including summer. Current enrollment is 89.

Executive director of all KidsPoint childcare is Ashley Meyer. Ms. Meyer has a bachelor degree in elementary education, several years of teaching experience, and several years director experience. Ms. Meyer is a member of NAEYC and a member of Family Connections. The site specific director of KPDLCP is Christine "Chris" Hamor. Ms. Hamor has been this program's director since January, 2015. Ms. Hamor has been employed with KidsPoint since 1989. Ms. Hamor has a CDA and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 3/4/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KidsPoint operates the following two licensed programs in Linn County: KidsPoint Downtown Learning Center & Preschool (KPDLCP) and KidsPoint C Street. KidsPoint offer a variety of early learning programming and childcare options to help meet the needs of children and families in the community. Both programs are located in predominantly urban areas and accept a variety of funding sources.

KidsPoint has the following website for the community and enrolled families to learn more about their programs: http://www.kidspointchildcare.org/. KidsPoint also has an online video highlighting their childcare programs: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPOrWhgPsNE.

KPDLCP has a history of participation in quality initiatives including CACFP and local quality initiatives. Management discussed a future goal is to participate in IQ4K.

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KidsPoint is to provide "…a high quality, nurturing environment where children are encouraged to reach their fullest potential in all areas of development." The history of how KidsPoint came to fruition in 1894 and evolved to present day (e.g. current location move 1911, building addition in 1962 for childcare, 2001 name change, survival of the 2008 flood, 2016 re-branding, 2020 downtown renovations) is impressive!

Ownership and management of KPDLCP has remained consistent. Specifically, KPDLCP director Ms. Hamor has been employed by KidsPoint for 36 years and been the director of this site for over 10 years. The management team (e.g. Ms. Meyer, Ms. Hamor) has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Since the last monitoring visit, the program has retained as well as hired some new staff. Many KidsPoint staff have degrees, several years of experience working with children, and/or continue to participate in child development. Various staff reported celebrating 29 years, 10 years, 3 years, and 3 months with the program. Staff longevity has been noted! Ms. Hamor discussed how the program supports staff professional goals through partnerships with Teach program, Wages and their own annual professional development days. Ms. Hamor talked about employee appreciation events (e.g. Superbowl Potluck, popcorn bar, staff birthday and work anniversary acknowledgments), a private employee social media page, training inspired pay scale, annual staff sabbaticals, flexible staff scheduling, and classroom supports.

Building and grounds are maintained. KPDLCP has maintenance persons who assist in maintaining the property to help ensure it's sanitary and hazard free each day. KPDLCP's new food service supervisor has been with the program for over 8 years before moving into the supervisor role. The culinary supervisor talked about making seasonal changes to the menu to allow for more fresh fruits and vegetables. She also discussed the recent successful on-site CACFP visit. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum includes Creative Curriculum, teacher inspired ideas, STEAM programming, social emotional leaning, on-site guest speaker events (e.g. orchestra, sports), seasonal parties (e.g. Valentine's exchange, pj day) and off-site field trip experiences (e.g. local pumpkin patch, library, mini golf, splash pads, local parks for hikes and picnics).

KPDLCP continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities.

KPDLCP continues to collaborate with many community partners including local school districts, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals.

KPDLCP has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through the Linn County 2008 flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning supplies as well as cleaning checklists/reminders were observed in various areas on-site.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included Dr. Seuss. Activities observed throughout the classrooms were many (e.g. infant cares, center play experiences, center group discussions, small group work, book reading, outdoor large gross motor play). Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, sensory, puzzles, games, crafts) that encouraged innovative play with opportunities for problem solving and creativity. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. It was noteworthy, on the day of the annual visit, "Thing 1" was observed to be visiting the purple room children and they were overheard expressing excitement about this as well as recent visit their classroom had from Dr. Seuss earlier in the week. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with meaningful discussion, offering positive redirection when needed, and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure each child's immunization record is documented on the required IDHHS Certificate of Immunization. A medical office print-out does not meet rule.

Child file reviewed (JM) shall have a written emergency plan as well as any needed rescue medication on-site when in attendance.

Licensing supports installing a dishwasher in the newly established young infant room (which moved from the red room).

In the yellow room, replace the broken child proof lock on the lower cabinet.

Label the separate refuse and soiled diaper receptacles. Areas requiring two bins have them but separate usage is inconsistent.

Obtain a doorbell or alarm for the green room to help ensure careful supervision.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.