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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Wallace Elementary **Enrollment:** 118 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42081

Street: 6207 NW 62nd Ave **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: PO Box 10, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Steve Conlan **Phone Number:** 515-252-8490

On-Site Supervisor(s): Charity Johnson **E-Mail:** sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 02-03-2025

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:** 01-13-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-06-2022

Comments : Johnston/Grimes Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years. The program will be due for another inspection in the summer of 2025.

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	548	548
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-04-2025

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 2/3/25. The on-site supervisor was present throughout the visit and the director for a portion of the 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, which included observation of staff files from another, already inspected Kids Connection program.

Kids Connection - Wallace Elementary moved into the old Johnston Middle School starting in the 2018-2019 school year. This is one of five Kids Connection programs. Children who attend this school attend this program, although that changes some in the summer months where children are divided up by age/grade between the five programs. The program is open year round. During the school year, children can attend 6:30 am - 8:30 am and/or 3:35 pm - 6:00 pm. During the summer months and no school days, children can attend 6:30 am -6:00 pm. The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teaching of children.

Steve Conlan is the director of this program and the other four Kids Connection programs. Steve has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Specialized Social Studies. He has worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Charity Johnson is the on-site supervisor. Charity has a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and has also worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Both individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

This program uses the cafeteria and the two gyms, as well as two playground areas.

During the visit, children were divided up between the cafeteria and the smaller gym. In the cafeteria, children were spaced out as were staff. Some children were observed visiting with each other. Several tables of children were doing different art projects. In the smaller gym, children were engaged in a game of kick ball. Staff were again spaced out and engaged with the children and the game.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Walkie-talkies are used by staff to communicate with each other. There is also a staff "greeter" by the main parent board for children coming and going, as well as a hall monitor to ensure the children are where they need to be. The entrance to the center is secure.

Staff members wear center shirts and sweatshirts that make them more easily identifiable.

This center is one of five Kids Connection centers in Johnston. All five centers have the same director, policies, handbooks, etc. There is continuity.

The center has a website through the school district and sends out monthly newsletters to the parents.

The director of these five programs has roughly quarterly meetings with directors of other school district before and after school programs. In addition, on-site supervisors of these five programs meet with the director for meetings every other week. Then individual centers have all staff meetings several times throughout the year.

The center has a strong working relationship with the school.

The center incorporates different themes and projects throughout the year and has events for parents to attend.

The Kids Connection programs take care of their employees which include, but are not limited to higher wages, potential opportunities for benefits, incentive programs, a recognition program, etc.

The Kids Connection programs have good community supports from other businesses, local colleges, etc. There is a real sense of partnership.

The Kids Connection programs have several staff that were once children in these programs themselves.

Enrollment is steady.

The on-site supervisor is the most tenured of all the Kids Connection on-site supervisors and has also participated in the Iowa After School Alliance Training.

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

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year. January 2025 fire and tornado drills were not documented. HOWEVER, THE ON-SITE SUPERVISOR STATED THESE WERE DONE THE PREVIOUS THURSDAY AND JUST NOT TRANSFERRED OVER TO THE MONTHLY DRILL FORMS.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental tested because they are located in an actual school building and only serve school-age children. However, they still do radon testing.

For field trips, the center contracts with the school district to take a bus and school bus driver.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit. Some staff have been uploading training and some have not. All staff will need to have profiles and be uploading training documentation.

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.