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

Name of Center: Inspired Kids Academy **Enrollment:** 102 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52116

Street: 5255 Ella Ivy LN **City:** Van Meter Iowa **Zip** 50261 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 5255 Ella Ivy LN, Van Meter, IA, 50261

Director's Name: Stephanie Chase **Phone Number:** 515-336-5152

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lauren Bishop and Heidi Conner **E-Mail:** stephanie@inspiredkidsacademy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-10-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-14-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-16-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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	28	88	45	185
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-13-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 5/10/24. The director was present for the majority 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.

Inspired Kids Academy is a newer center in Van Meter, IA that was given permission to open on 3/20/23. The center is privately owned. The executive director of the program is Stephanie Chase. Stephanie has a BA degree in Early Childhood Education and has past experience working in child care, which also includes being a director at another program in the past. Lauren Bishop is one of the on-site supervisors of this program. Lauren has an AA degree in Early Childhood Education and also has past experience working in child care, which also includes being an on-site supervisor at another program in the past. Heidi Conner is the other on-site supervisor. Heidi also has past experience working in child care.

The center serves children six weeks to 12 years in age using the Learning Beyond Papers Learning Curriculum. There are a total of nine classrooms. The two infant classrooms have capacities of 12 children each. The two two-year old classrooms have capacities of 14 children each. The two three-year old classrooms have capacities of 20 children each. The two four/five year old classrooms have capacities of 24 children each. The school-age classroom has a capacity of 45 children.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, participating in a large group story activity being facilitated by staff, and playing outside on the playground.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center that meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment has increased significantly over the past year.

Both the director and the on-site supervisors are organized and pay attention to detail.

The center was clean and very nicely decorated in classrooms.

The director and the on-site supervisors have extensive past experience in their roles at other programs. In addition, many of the staff working at this center have a lot of knowledge and past experience working in child care.

The center uses the Pro-Care electronic app for many of their procedural duties as well as for additional communication with parents.

The center uses Trello which is essentially an intranet for the company and used to train new employees, review handbooks, etc.

The center utilizes CCR&R and CCNC as needed.

For field trips, children were center shirts.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The center has a full-time cook.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The director and one of the on-site supervisors have their NAC certifications.

This is the second year in a row no below standards were identified.

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

No below standards were identified at this year's visit which makes the second year in a row this has occurred.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 4/19/24 - 4/22/24. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The furnace is new and was installed when the building was built in early 2023. The last annual inspection/service was completed on 4/29/24.

For transportation and field trips, the center contracts with the school district. Only school-age children are allowed to go on field trips at this time. The center will also bring in different agencies for presentations at times throughout the year.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. From looking in I - Power, it appears staff are creating profiles and having their training uploaded. Some training still needs to be uploaded.

It was not checked at this year's visit, but last year, this consultant send an email to the director after the visit concluded on some updates needed to the handbooks (medications in original container, not locking up emergency medications such as epipens, the child abuse hotline number, and training hours needed as well as timeframes when they need renewed.

Cribs and cots should be sanitized daily in all classrooms.

It is highly recommended parents list at least one emergency/authorized pick up person for their children rather than leaving these sections empty and/or just listing themselves.

*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.