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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Timber Ridge Elementary **Enrollment:** 117 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42080

Street: 7370 NW 54th 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): Megan Davis **E-Mail:** sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 02-21-2024

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:** 01-23-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-02-2023

Comments : Johnston/Grimes Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years for licensing.

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	300	300
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-21-2024

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 2/21/24. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this 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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Kids Connection Timber Ridge Elementary is one of five Kids Connection programs. Children who attend this school attend this program. 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 attend 6:30 am 6:00 pm. The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teachings.

Steve Conlan is the director of this program and the other four Kids Connection programs. Steve has a BS degree in Elementary Education and Specialized Social Studies. He has worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Megan Davis is the on-site supervisor as of 8/2022. Megan has a BS degree as well as past experience working in child care.

This program uses primarily the gym, cafeteria, and playground, but they also have access to two music rooms (currently only use one music room). All areas are within close proximity of each other.

During the visit, children were initially having a meeting with staff as a large group to go over rules and respect for each other. Later, all children were observed outside playing on the playground. Staff were spaced out on the playground supervising children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center provides a wide range of activities and opportunities for the children.

The center has a strong working relationship with the school and partners well with the school. The on-site supervisor was previously a school associate so she has connections throughout the school.

The staff work well together per the on-site supervisor. They are tight knit group.

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.

Staff members are wearing center shirts that make them more easily identifiable.

The center has a website through the school district.

Staff members go to the specific hallways of classrooms to get children and bring them to the gym/cafeteria/music room at the end of the school day.

Staff pictures are posted near the main entrance.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

The director of these five programs has 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 roughly ever other month.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter.

The Kids Connection programs take care of their employees which include, but are not limited to higher wages, potential opportunities for benefits, incentive programs, recognition events, 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. There is also a good mix of tenured and new staff.

Enrollment has increased again some within the past year.

Good staff redirection of children was observed at the beginning of the visit.

The playground is very spacious with a lot of different large motor activities for children to participate in. The entire playground is also now fenced in.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
1. The purple plastic covers on the ball pit should be removed/replaced as they are all cracked and create a hazard. It was noted the on-site supervisor had already talked to school personnel about this issue recently.
2. The phone cords should be kept up rather than freely dangling.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental tested as they are located within a school building and only serve school-age children. However, the center still does radon testing.

The center contracts with the school district to take a school bus driver and school bus for all field trips.

I-Power was discussed at the visit.

Hand washing signs should be posted by the main restrooms used by the center.

*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.