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

Name of Center: KidsPoint Downtown Learning Center & Preschool **Enrollment:** 61 **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 & Lisa Hajek **E-Mail:** abwagner@waypointservices.org, chris.hamor@waypointservices.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-23-2023

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: 06-30-2022

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: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-02-2023

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 61.

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 1/23/23, 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/.

KPDLCP has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS and local quality initiatives. The program has a QRS 3-Star.

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 (including a expansion of services/outreach programming for women and children, the commencement of school-age childcare programming in 1984, a 2001 name change, survival of the 2008 flood, 2016 re-branding, and so on) is impressive. Nearly 125 years after its foundation, this entity remains in a predominantly urban area serving individuals from all backgrounds through its Homeless & Housing Services, Domestic Violence Victim Services, and Child Care Services.

Ownership and management of KPDLCP has remained consistent. Specifically, KPDLCP director Ms. Hamor has been employed by KidsPoint for over 33 years and been the director of this site for over 7 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 28 years, 11 years, 4 years, and 7 months with the program. Ms. Hamor talked about how KidsPoint supports employee's professional growth through participation in the TEACH and WAGE$ programs as well as hosting annual professional development days. Ms. Hamor discussed how the program continues to retain staff through teacher appreciation events (e.g. food days/potato bar, Fun Fridays, Halloween celebration, staff birthday and work anniversary acknowledgments, "All About Me" board for staff, regular staff salad bar), a private employee social media page, training inspired pay scale, flexible scheduling when possible, added classroom support (e.g. new on-site behavioral support/critical service support), and continued supports for professional growth.

KPDLCP has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County historic flood, the 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event, a 2020 water line repair incident and 2019 pandemic.

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. Ms. Hamor discussed family surveys pertaining to a possible 2023 summer school-age camp.

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 has a culinary staff who has been with the program for 6 years as well as a new food service supervisor. Both help ensure food served is healthy and appealing to children. 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, school-age programming, and off-site field trip experiences.

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

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. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing. The program has policies and procedures in place for 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 dinosaurs and "Let it Snow:" Activities observed throughout the classrooms were many including infant cares, center play opportunities, center group discussions and small group work. 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. A very noteworthy dinosaur experience was happening in the purple (3 and 4yo) room that included staff created volcano/tent/camping experience, a dinosaur nest fill with child created paper-mache dino eggs, variety of sensory experiences involving digging for dinos, and building dino homes with wooden blocks! Children were squealing with delight in the activities! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and offering positive redirection when needed. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

109.6(6)c: Record checks
- Staff file reviewed (CH) lacked documentation of an updated Iowa and national record check.

109.9(1)d&e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff requirements are met.
- Staff file reviewed (CH) lacked annual required professional growth hours.
- Staff file reviewed (CH) lacked updated physical exam with TB screening.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to ensure lower cabinets are secured or ensure that all items stored in the lower cabinets are child-safe.

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.