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

Name of Center: KidZone Christian Daycare Center & Preschool **Enrollment:** 116 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17660

Street: 1111 5th Ave N **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 1111 5th Ave N, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Bernadette Ricke **Phone Number:** 515-955-3618

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kidzone@firstpresfd.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-06-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 12-08-2020

Comments : Note: The fire marshal confirmed on 07-14-23 that the room that would be used for preschool had been inspected and was approved for occupancy

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	12	7	36	50	105
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-14-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the KidZone Christian Daycare center on 07-06-23 where I met with the assistant director, Jessica Fiebig as the center director Bernadette Ricke was not in. Bernadette is well qualified for the position having been with the center since 2012 and taking over the director position in June 2021. Bernadette has also completed on-going professional development in early childhood care and education, and a member of IAEYC. This program is located in the First Presbyterian church in Fort Dodge and while having a very close working relationship with the church is overseen by a separate board of directors. The program makes use of several rooms and the kitchen facilities of the building. The center provides daycare and preschool services to infants through school age children. There are approximately 115 children enrolled in the program served by 22 staff. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

During the visit a request was made to remove the space on the second floor that was being used for the formal preschool classroom from the licensed space, and replace it with another classroom on the main floor. The new room is a large open space with a retractable divider that can be used to separate the room. The room has several entrances including a wheelchair ramp. Windows along the exterior wall provide natural light. The room was measured to have 1075 sq.ft. of usable programming space allowing for a room capacity of 30 children.

The overall arrangement of the remaining programming spaces of the center has not changed since the last visit with classrooms determined by age groups with the infants being separated into two rooms with one for children under 12 months of age and the other for children 12-24 months of age. The younger infant room does have a sleeping area where cribs are located. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns noted due to maintenance. Each room has access to bathroom facilities directly from the classrooms and additional sinks in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The school age children are located in a large meeting hall which has direct exits to the outside which were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. A smaller room off that space can also be used for programming but is too small to accommodate the full daily attendance and is used more for storage of materials and limited small group activities. Each room is arranged with activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement was such that it did not create any blind areas in any of the rooms.

The available activity centers do increase both in terms of options and complexity for each age group with the exception of the school age children. This is due in part to the dual use nature of the space where dedicated centers cannot be established, and the available space of the smaller room. Available centers in all classrooms include large/small manipulatives, library, and music, and adding options for dramatic play, art/crafts, group learning, and math/science in older classrooms. Each activity center was stocked toys and materials that were generally in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Many of the children were just getting up from a quiet/nap time. Good interactions were observed with all staff attending to the children and being actively engaged with them. Each room had a daily schedule and copy of the planned curriculum posted. The center does have a center wide planned curriculum theme which was posted in the center office. A copy of the planned curriculum though during the summer the curriculum is more relaxed and tends to focus on general themes such as "4th of July", or activities such as water/pool day. Ratio was maintained in the building as

required by age. As noted the infant room does have a separate sleeping area and it was observed that a staff member was present in that area to provide supervision when children were sleeping.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit but some practices do need to be reviewed. I was able to observe a diaper change and while the required procedures posting was present it was not followed. During the diaper change the teacher did not wash the infant's hands, did not clean the changing station, and did not wash her own hands following the diaper change. The hand washing practices were further compounded by that same child then being placed in a high chair for a snack where another teacher was about to serve the child before being instructed that the child's hands needed to be washed. Another issue that was noted was with regard to the bleach solution being used for cleaning. The center did have posted instructions next to the changing station which provided information that is likely not accurate and included that the product needed to be allowed to remain on the surface for 60 seconds. Typically the manufacturer label directions for bleach products will identify a required dwell time of between 5 to 10 minutes to be effective as a disinfectant. The posted instructions may have been intended for when using bleach water as a sanitizing product. The center does need to ensure that when using chemical cleaners the staff need to read and follow the label directions for the intended use of the product. Chemical cleaners, purses, and other materials that could be a safety risk for children were kept in storage where they were not readily accessible. Over the counter medications were labeled with the names of the individual to whom it belongs. First aid kits were present and taken as a whole contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center has replaced sleeping mats with stackable cots to reduce disease transmission. Good safe sleep practices were observed during the time of the visit.

The playground was reviewed and the equipment was observed to generally be in good repair. The wooden climbing structure was noted to have some maintenance needs. Jessica did state that the center is looking to remodel the playground in the coming year and that removal and replacement of the structure is planned. The center uses rubber mulch for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present. A canvas umbrella style structure and mature trees provide shade options. In addition to the playground area the center also uses used traffic cones to close off an area of the parking lot where children are able to engage in water play activities. The playground space is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair.

The kitchen was observed to be clean with a menu posted which provided a good variety of nutritious food options. Good food handling practices were observed during the visit. Good food storage practices were observed with dry pantry items properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after the original packaging seal had been broken, refrigerated items covered and dated as to when they were placed in storage. Meals are served in the classrooms and while the teachers were not eating with the children they did provide supervision at the tables.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A random selection of both staff and child files were selected for review and compared to the self-audits completed by the center which were found to be accurate. Based on the files reviewed and the self-audits the children's files were generally found to be in full compliance with 5 needing a renewed physical. With regard to staff files the self-audit identified 3 had not completed the required training within the first 90 days of employment. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Monthly Playground inspections were not being completed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is currently participating in the QRS program to implement best practice recommendations and is rated as a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

The program has continued to work to options to expand and improve services provided. This includes making use of classroom spaces that provide more useable square footage, plans to renovate the playground, and replacement of equipment such as sleeping mats with cots.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date

shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 3

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- One infant was observed to be seated and staff prepared to provide the child with a snack until being directed to wash the child's hands.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- Staff did not wash the infant's hands following diapering, did clean the changing station following diapering, and did not wash their own hands following diapering.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

NOTE: A service referral will be made to CCR&R/Public Health to provide training to staff regarding diapering, cleaning, and disease transmission reduction practices.

*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.