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

Name of Center: Kids Kampus **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52396

Street: 5150 Blairs Forest Way **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 5150 Blairs Forest Way, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Celia Smith **Phone Number:** 319-393-2898

On-Site Supervisor(s): Celia Smith **E-Mail:** stephanie@kidskampuscr.com
celia@kidskampuscr.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-02-2025

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: 11-18-2024

Comments :

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 X 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	28	24	52	27	131
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 04-28-2025

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Kids Kampus (#52396) commenced operations under new ownership on 12/23/2023. This site had been operating as Kids Kampus (#51671) from 1/1/2022-12/23/2023, and prior to this, Kids Kampus Learning Inc. (#23676) from August 1996 to 1/1/2022. The program operates year-round, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. Current enrollment is 80.

New owner Stephanie Jemtrud assumed ownership on 12/23/2023. Ms. Jemtrud has a BA degree in elementary education, several years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in child development related training. Director of Kids Kampus is Celia Smith. Ms. Smith has been the qualified director since February 2024. Ms. Smith has over 10 years of experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 4/2/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Kids Kampus is a well established program offering many different early learning opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a predominantly urban community. The program accepts a variety of funding sources.

During 2025, Kids Kampus will be celebrating their 29th year of business (with currently over 1 year under new management). Congratulations! Kids Kampus underwent 3 ownership changes between January 2022 to December 20023.

According to the family handbook, Kids Kampus has "...a long history in this community of providing quality care....Our staff have years of experience from professional development classes and workshops. We are proud of that we put all children’s needs first. Our love for children is what drives our long-term experienced staff. Our teachers set the stage for an environment that challenges children every day..."

Management (e.g. Ms. Jemtrud, Ms. Smith) has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures.

Staff are seasoned and reported celebrating 29 years, 28 years, 25 years, and 3 years employment with Kids Kampus. Staff longevity is impressive! Management continues to include staff appreciation and professional growth opportunities in their operations.

Kids Kampus has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Kids Kampus has successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Kids Kampus continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included open houses, parent/program conferences, holiday parties, off-site field experiences, and on-site guest speakers.

Building and grounds are maintained. In late 2020, an updating and/or replacement of classroom flooring (e.g. carpets, rugs), center lighting, roof and ceiling with acoustic features, kitchen cabinets, many furnishings (e.g. diaper stations, some appliances, areas of counter tops), much classroom materials, outdoor fencing, and security features occurred. Since the last review, the program obtained a new washer/dryer, air conditioner and refrigerator. New shelving was installed in the 2yo restroom. Management talked about continued investments in their staff and building updates.

Classrooms are arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Materials are accessible to children. Kids Kampus continues to use a combination of Creative Curriculum, Handwriting without Tears, Jolly Phonics, HighScope and teacher inspired ideas. Past learning experiences have included theme days, enrichment experiences, obstacle courses, balloon animal artist, princesses, trips to the nature center, sports camps, visits from Kona ice, bike day, and restaurant tours. Summer 2025 enrollment is currently underway.

Kids Kampus collaborates well with community agencies including the local school district, CCR&R, health professionals, and local businesses.

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. The program has supplies as well as policies and procedures in place for diapering, hand washing, cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Activities observed (e.g. infant cares, center play experiences, group circle with book reading) were many. The school-age room was found to have a clever President's of the USA from 1789-2024 display! Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, offering positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. 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.
- One staff file reviewed (AA hired February 2025) lacked results of an Iowa record check.
- One staff file reviewed (AA hired February 2025) lacked documentation of having submitted a federal record check.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report.
- One staff file reviewed (AA hired February 2025) lacked documentation of a physical exam.

109.9(2)i. For each child not yet enrolled in kindergarten, the child care center must require a physical examination submitted at enrollment but no later than within four weeks of admission. The physical should include a health history and status of present health, including allergies, medications, acute or chronic conditions, and care plan when needed. The physical should be completed and signed by the child’s primary health care provider (MD, DO, chiropractor, PA, or ARNP). The date of the physical examination shall be no more than 12 months prior to the first day of admission and annually thereafter until kindergarten entry.
- One child file reviewed (RC) lacked documentation of a current annual physical exam and written care plan for a noted chronic condition with rescue medication.
- One child file reviewed (EM) lacked documentation of a written care plan for a noted chronic condition with rescue medication.
- One child file reviewed (TK) lacked documentation of a written care plan for a noted chronic condition with rescue medication.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
- Documentation of current radon testing continues to not be found.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
- Post current menu in area frequented by parents. Each and every substitution shall be noted on the posted menu.
- Lunch served did not meet CACFP guidelines for required components or serving size of vegetables and fruits.
- Every food item transported from the kitchen to a classroom shall be covered to prevent contamination from the kitchen to the designated area it's being consumed.
- Kitchen shall receive a deep clean including food particles removed.

- All open foods shall be properly labeled dated and closed/sealed. There shall be no open food in cabinets and refrigerator/freezer units.

109.12(1) Activities. The center shall have a written curriculum that uses developmentally appropriate practices and a written program of activities planned according to the developmental level of the children. The center shall post a schedule of the program in a visible place. The child care program shall complement but not duplicate the school curriculum.
- Lesson plans/curriculum and daily schedules were not found or posted for all child rooms (e.g. 2yo, combined 4-5yo).

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
- Add a thermometer to the school-age room refrigerator/freezer.
- Add a thermometer to the infant room refrigerator/freezer.
- Remedy the 2yo room broken toilet.
- Store cot sheets/bedding off cots as it's currently all touching and not effectively helping reduce transmission of possible disease, insects, etc. (older infants, 2yo).
- All food tables/surfaces shall be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to any food service (2yo).
- Every staff and child shall hand wash prior to any food service activities (2yo).
- The older infant room's hand soap dispenser shall be reattached to the wall so that everyone can properly access hand washing supplies.
- Replace the missing door on the combined 4-5yo room's sink vanity.
- Cushion surfacing shall cover the exposed outdoor playground equipment concrete footings.
- Repair outdoor playground shed doors as there's a large gap with potential for hazards that include finger pinching and entrapment.
- Cover the exposed outdoor sand to keep it free from pests.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The annual fuel burning appliance inspection completed on 4/11/2025 noted the water heater "failed" for combustion air causing a negative pressure on the room. A temporary solution was to tape over the openings but indicated the program has to add make up air. Remedy.

Begin to consider replacement of the diapering surface in the 2yo room. It is showing much ware making it difficult to properly clean and disinfect.

Within 30 days of receipt of this report, please forward written documentation (can be an email) to licensing as to how the above items were or are being remedied.

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.