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

Name of Center: Rock Rapids Kids Club **Enrollment:** 127 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29515

Street: 304 S Lincoln ST **City:** Rock Rapids Iowa **Zip** 51246 **County:** Lyon

Mailing Address: 304 S Lincoln ST, Rock Rapids, IA, 51246

Director's Name: Ashley Ahrent **Phone Number:** 712-472-2686

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brenda Deutsch **E-Mail:** kidsclub@premieronline.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-23-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-06-2024

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

Date Inspected: 01-08-2024

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	34	34	58	40	166
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 07-29-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On July 23, 2025, this worker completed an unannounced visit to the center. The program director, Ashley Ahrent, was not present at the time of the visit. Ashley has served as the director since October 7, 2022. She brings 14 years of experience working at this center, along with extensive training in the field. In her absence, Brenda Duetsch served as the onsite supervisor. Brenda has also been with the center for many years and is familiar with the daily operations. Although the director was not present, the visit went smoothly, and Brenda knew where files and information was located.

Kids Club provides care for children ranging in age from infants to 9 years old. The facility consists of six classrooms and a gym area for indoor gross motor activities. Additionally, three fenced-in playgrounds are located adjacent to the building: one designated for infants, one for younger children, and one for older children. The center uses a keypad/thumbprint system to control entry to the building. If a visitor does not have the access code, staff are required to let them in, ensuring a secure environment. The program operates Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

There are currently 127 children enrolled in the program. During the visit, all areas of the program were observed. Observations included classroom environments and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, playground use, field trip and transportation practices, as well as a review of administrative documentation and practices. Each area was reviewed to ensure compliance with licensing regulations and to assess the overall quality of care and supervision provided throughout the program.

Each classroom clearly identifies the staff assigned to the room with a photo and a brief description, helping children and families become familiar with caregivers. The center implements a theme-based curriculum that supports early learning and development across multiple domains. Classrooms were observed to have a variety of visual aids, including the alphabet, numbers, colors, and sight words. These materials help reinforce foundational concepts and promote language and cognitive development in age-appropriate ways. Good handwashing practices were observed among both staff and children. Staff follow clearly posted cleaning schedules, which contribute to a clean and hygienic environment. Safe sleep practices were observed and followed in accordance with licensing guidelines. Classrooms are thoughtfully arranged into learning centers that encourage exploration, play, and engagement in a structured manner. These centers promote both independent and group learning opportunities. Positive behavior is reinforced through a system called “Bucket Fillers.” When children demonstrate positive behavior, they earn a point in the classroom's bucket, encouraging kindness, cooperation, and respect among peers.

I observed staff engaged with the children in their care. Staff was at the children's level and interacting with the children.

The program demonstrates a strong connection to the community. During this visit, the center participated in Lyon County Fair week, with children taking a trip to see the displays, providing them with an enriching, real-world learning experience

Medications are stored securely in locked boxes or placed out of children's reach, in accordance with safety regulations. Tables are sanitized before meals, and good handwashing procedures were consistently observed among both staff and children. The first aid kit on site is fully stocked and sufficient to treat minor injuries.

The center follows sanitary procedures and maintains a clean environment across all program areas. A functioning carbon monoxide detector is present, and radon testing results are within the normal range. The annual heating system inspection has been completed. Monthly fire and tornado drills are completed along with monthly playground inspections.

The center has three fenced-in playgrounds tailored to different age groups—one for children under age two, one for younger children, and another for older children. Playground surfacing consists of a combination of cement, rubber, and grass, providing appropriate safety measures. Playgrounds are equipped with a variety of outdoor play materials, including riding toys/vehicles, a basketball hoop, a water table, balls, and a playhouse. The center has recently added a half basketball court and installed an awning to increase shaded areas for outdoor activities.

Overall, the center appears to be operating in compliance with licensing regulations, with only minor areas noted for follow-up.

The goal of this program is to continue with IQ4K certification.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a core staff that have been at the center for a number of years.

The director was not working on the day of my unannounced visit however staff members present were knowledgeable and about the children in their care as well as other administrative details.

They have a good relationship within their community and take advantage of activities such as the county fair for field tripes.

Staff are committed to the children in their care and present a very positive atmosphere.

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

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care. File needs dental information.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. Updated physicals.

109.10(1): Medications: The center shall have written procedures for dispensing, storage, and authorization, and recording of all prescription and non-prescription medications. Staff must be over 18 to administer medication. All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name. For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given. For ongoing, long-term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription. Staff shall not provide medications to a child if pre-service/orientation training for medication management has not been completed.

All sunscreen and diaper cream needs a label

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to confirm with consultant when items that fall below standards have been completed by 10/01/25. It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for support.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

PLEASE PUT ALL STAFF TRAINING UPDATES AN INFORMATION INTO iPoWer.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.