Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kid Zone

Provider No.: 19978

Address: 1701 W Agency RD, West Burlington, IA, 52655

County: Des Moines

Director's Name: Dianne Petersen

On-Site Supervisor: Traci Gerling, Tasha Prickett & Kristen Rahmus

Phone Number: 3197681234

E-Mail: dpetersen@grhs.net

HHS Visit Date: 06/05/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2026 to 06/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/02/2026

Comments: conducted annually by local FD

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:30 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:30 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	20	23	68	50	161
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Kid Zone child care center has been in operation since 2006. The center is in a commercial building designed for child care on the campus of the hospital in West Burlington. Kid Zone is located in a new single story building specifically constructed for child care and site on the campus of Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. The center is owned and operated by Great River Medical Center. They are an employer sponsored center.

Enrollment is limited to children of employees at Great River Medical Center. The director is Dianne Petersen. Ms. Petersen also directs the sister center to this program in Ft. Madison. Director Petersen is present M/W/F in West Burlington and Tuesday & Thursday in Ft. Madison. Diane possesses a Child Development Associates. She started working at Kids Zone in 2010. The Center has three on site supervisors. Tasha Prickett, and Traci Gerling both possess CDA's and began working at Kid Zone in 2010. Kristen Rahmus is the other OSS. She is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Early Elementary Education. She began employment with Kids Zone in 2016.

GRHS is governed by a Board of Directors. Community members served on the board. The Center is able to utilize some equipment from the city Church of Burlington when needed. Before and After school care is provided as well as full day care when school is not in session or on in service days, Winter and Spring breaks and holidays that the center is open.

The Center offers childcare ages 6 weeks through 12 years including preschool and a school age program. The Center opens from 6:00 am to 6:30 pm Monday thru Friday. The building is secured by a locked door. You must have a badge to activate the door.

On 6/5/26 all program space was observed. I met with with Director Petersen and OSS Gerling and other On Site

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Supervisors. The areas discussed, reviewed and noted consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Program Observations:

The center consists of an infant room, a toddler room, and two preschool age classrooms. Infant room - 0-12 months - rated for 16 infants; the center typically has 12 children in attendance in this room. This room has an attached bathroom shared with the Preschool room that has 2 toilets and 2 sinks. The infant room has a hand washing sink and a food prep sink. The program added four new rooms to the center, one being a large room divided into 2 rooms. It is used for gross motor play during the school year and school kids during summer. Breastfeeding is encouraged. Mothers are encouraged to nurse their babies at the center.

The infant classrooms prepare and serve bottles and infant meals in the classroom. Infant Sheets are updated throughout the day. The sheets met all requirements, including activities for the day.

Young Toddlers - 12 months to 24 months. Square feet in this room can allow for up to 12 children. This room shares an attached bathroom with the toddlers, with 2 sinks and 2 toilets. There is a hand washing sink in the room.

Toddlers - 24 months to 36 months. This room may have up to 16 children at one time. This room. shares an attached bathroom with the Young Toddlers, with 2 sinks and 2 toilets. There is a hand washing sink in the room.

Preschool - 36 months and up. This room may have 26 children at one time. This room shares an attached bathroom with the Infants, with 2 sinks and 2 toilets. There is a hand washing sink in the room. The day consists of music, small and large motor activities, calendar time and also learning centers. Curriculum is theme based, developed by the teachers and taught by a unit approach. The learning activities are 60% teacher directed and 40% child selected. Teachers log daily observations of each child's learning and progress. The room is loosely divided into interest centers.

The program added four new rooms to the center, one being a large room divided into 2 rooms. It will be used for gross motor play during the school year and school kids during summer. When the room is utilized for gross motor activities the rule of 75 square feet of useable floor space per child is followed. The new expansion consist of two MOTORSKILLS/FUTURE CARE ROOM with the capacity of 17, an after school room with a capacity of 23 and a preschool age room with a capacity of 24. The new area has 4 toilets and a staff toilet. Counting the adult restroom the new expansion area may have 75 children per the rule one toilet per 15 children.

A cafeteria has doubled as a before and after school classroom for school age children and summer school age program area. The cafeteria has a hand washing sink and a drinking fountain. Since the expansion has taken place it is now utilized for it's intended purposes.

The center also has a large, modern kitchen, staff break room, and director's office. The children do not have access to these areas. All classrooms are clean, bright, attractive, and equipped with a satisfactory variety of child sized furniture and equipment, toys, games and activities for the children. The classrooms are largely self-contained. Two years ago the program increasd capacity from 86 to 161. The new expansion consist of two MOTORSKILLS/FUTURE CARE ROOMs with the capacity of 17 each, an after school room with a capacity of 23 and a preschool age room with a capacity of 24.

Each classroom was clean. A Daily Cleaning check list that is in each room and is completed by staff. Each classroom was remeasured in 2015 to ensure capacity was correct.

The center contains a basement area where the children and staff may go in case of emergency or tornado. A corner is set aside for the children where carpet squares are available. Other toys were set up to keep the children occupied during drills or an actual emergency.

Center Nutrition:

The center serves breakfast, snacks, and a noon meal to the children. Meals and snacks are prepared in the center kitchen and served in an adjoining cafeteria like dining area. Meals are served family style and menu patterns appear to meet minimum nutritional requirements. The last snack of the day also meets CACFP requirements even though this snack is not

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claimable to CACFP. The Center is a part of the CACFP Food Program. The center rotates menus every four weeks. Some food is stored in the basement. I observed both dry and cold/freezing food storage. No food was stored on the floor.

Center Health and Safety:

The center director and I reviewed prescription and non-prescription medication storage in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. Staff and child hand washing, storage and maintenance of a first aid kit, emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado, environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment, and general regulations regarding safety and sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed.

Each room has its own first aid kit stored in the rooms backpack for easy access and portability. Kits need to be labeled. Parents fill out a medication form when medication needs to be administered at the Center. Only the director, supervisors or lead teachers are approved to administer non-emergent medication. Extra copies of Accident reports and Health reports are in every room. Allergy information is posted in the kitchen, the rooms where the children are spending the day and on the room roster. Medical condition and allergy conditions lists are present with the children's pictures included. Allergy Action Plans are present on each child with allergies. These plans are posted in the rooms so that staff know how to respond in the event an allergic reaction occurs.

The center has a larger first aid kit in the staff room closet that remains locked. Emergency routes are posted in the main hall and in the rooms. Hand washing procedures are posted near every hand washing sink.

Chemicals are stored in rooms inaccessible to children. Further, the center utilizes only chemicals approved for childcare.

Radon testing was present with a level under 4 pCi/L. Updated testing is due every five years. The furnace and water heater inspections were up to date. They are due annually. Carbon monoxide detectors are hard wired in throughout the building. The center is on city water.

Ill or injured children are taken to the office. Since parents work close by, children are typically not left in the Center for long periods of time if ill or injured.

Center Playground:

The center has separate fenced and naturally shaded outdoor play areas for toddlers and preschool/school age children. The toddler area features a large, anchored plastic climbing and activity toy on shredded rubber surfacing. The preschool/school age area features a large, unanchored plastic playhouse and a large, anchored metal/plastic climbing and activity toy and three smaller, anchored activity toys on shredded rubber surfacing of inadequate depth. The play area also has areas of grass and a concrete runway for tricycle and big wheel riding. Recycled tire chips serve as a fall protecting base. The gate to this play area remains locked at all times. In 2025 the center added poured surfacing.

The playground is 8,289 sq. feet which would allow for 110 children. This allows for every child to have the minimum of 75 square feet per child for gross motor play.

Climbing equipment indoors 18 inches or higher must have fall surfacing.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The center owns a van for transporting children to and from school and on field trips. Children are transported by center staff members. Children are transported in a seat belt, car seat, or booster seat according to current Iowa regulations. Parents may be required to supply a booster or car seat as needed for their child if field trips involving use of transportation are a part of the program. Staff will be sure that car seats, booster seats and seat belts are used properly and each child is properly secured before setting the vehicle in motion. Children are prohibited from eating, drinking, standing during transport.

Children will never be left unattended in a vehicle, even for brief periods. All children will be accompanied by an adult to/from the vehicle to insure safety.. Drivers will be legally-licensed and shall not be under the influence of any chemical substance that may alter their ability to drive safely. Drivers aree First Aid and CPR certified if another staff member present is not. Drivers will have evidence of a safe driving record for the previous 5 years.

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Transportation is offered for AM schools between the hours of 8:00 am to 8:30 am , and PM between the hours of 3:00 PM and 3:30 PM. The center transports to North Hill, West Burlington, Corse, and Notre Dame.

A consent form is sent home to inform parents of any planned field trips. The form requires a parents or a legal guardians signature authorizing their child participation in the field trip. At least one staff person with current First Aid and CPR certification will accompany children on offsite activities. At least one staff member will have a cell phone in case of emergency on all off-site activities.

Center Administrative Records:

The center utilizes positive discipline "that will encourage your child's self-esteem. Intimidation, ridicule, physical or corporal punishment will not be allowed.. Guidance and discipline are based on developing the child's positive self- image and self-control. Children are encouraged to use problem-solving skills and become independent thinkers and decision makers. Caregivers positively redirect inappropriate behavior. Brief, simple explanations are given for acceptable behavior. The staff is trained to give directions in a positive manner, and care is taken to prevent a child from developing a negative self-image. If it is necessary to administer discipline a disciplinary report will be sent home.

Regulations regarding required notices and postings and required written policies are provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook. Staff and child files are complete and well organized. Inspection reports are kept in a notebook and on the computer. Accident and injury reports were clearly documented and signed by parents.

When a child is suspected of having a communicable disease or condition such as, but not limited to, chicken pox, German measles, infectious hepatitis, measles, mumps, lice, ringworm of the scalp, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria or meningitis, the Center posts at the desk so that parents are aware.

The center utilizes Easy Care to track staff and child file information. Five child files are out of compliance regarding updated physicals.

Annual emergency training is conducted. Emergency numbers including 911 and Poison Control are posted near telephones in each room. Staff are not able to start work until a physical has been completed. The Director updated the EPP to reflect the expansion when it was added. All staff sign and date acknowledgment of training on the EPP.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center follows Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards.

The program added a 1600 square foot addition.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.10(13)c: Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans. Some staff are overdue on EPP training. Administration indicated staff would be trained on this and sign and date acknowledgement of such.

2. 109.11(5): Bathroom facilities: One toilet and sink for each 15 children over two years of age in room with ventilation. Built after 11/1/95 – at least one sink in same area as toilet. Adequate training seats or chairs for children under two years if used in lieu of plumbed toilet. New construction after April 1, 1998, shall have at least one sink provided in the program rooms for infants and toddlers. Each restroom must have an exhaust fan. The Director is checking into the current ventilation system.

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4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website: http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants Your CCNC is Nancy Granaman. CCNC Granaman indicated she has visited the program multiple times.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website: http://www.iowaccrr.org/_we_are/region_5/ Your Child Care Resource Consultant is Jodi Norton.

TARGETED ASSESSMENT: The Director and I discussed behavioral management techniques. She stated, "
• How do you help staff understand the expectation associated with behavior management? Staff take PBIS. We also instruct staff on proper behavior management and it is a part of our staff handbook and onboarding."

• How do you help staff recognize their frustration and respond with de-escalation? PBIS training for all leaders. Leaders take their staff through hot button discovery. Staff are told during onboarding that everyone can become frustrated. When they do, ask for help. Someone can help cover to give them a break to compose themself.

• How do you monitor these skills / expectations? Annual evaluation, staff meetings, observations and communication with leaders."

Date: 06/12/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.