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

Name of Center: Kids Corner Child Care & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 63 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19201

Street: 314 6th Street North **City:** Winthrop Iowa **Zip** 50682 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: PO Box 265, Winthrop, IA, 50682

Director's Name: Ashley Taylor **Phone Number:** 319-935-3434

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Taylor **E-Mail:** winthropkidscorner@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-17-2025

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** X **No** **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 02-07-2023

Comments : Compliance on 02/23/23

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	24	15	18	11	68
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-24-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/17/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Kids Corner Child Care & Learning Center in Winthrop. I met with Ashley Taylor, the director. Ms. Taylor became the director in October 2024. Emily Dawes is the administrative lead and she is in charge when Ms. Taylor is not available. Ms. Dawes is in school for an elementary education degree. The program employs seventeen staff members.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. It is a non-profit program that has been in operation since 2005. The program operates 5:30 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. The program serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 63 children enrolled in the center.

The program operates out of the following rooms: infants (Itty Bitty Bloomers), a room for children approximately 12-18 months old (Messy Monkeys), a room for children ages 18 months old through two-years-old (Dancing Dolphins), a room for children two through four-year-olds (Little Guppies) and they use the media room as the school age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted.

It should be noted that I spoke with Ms. Taylor about requesting an exception to policy from Des Moines for caring for children ages two through four-years-old in the same room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, listening, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. In the school-age room you must secure the electrical cords for the television. This was cited in last year's report also.

Each room has access to a bathroom that has one toilet. Each room has two sinks. Changing tables are in the rooms for the younger children. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks and diaper changing procedures were posted near all the diaper changing tables. I observed and discussed diaper changes with the staff members and procedures are being followed in most rooms. In the Dancing Dolphins room, the staff member was leaving the glove on through the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed with the soiled diaper. In the infant room there was a homemade diaper cream. Homemade products cannot be used because all products used in the center must come with directions for use. You may take this product to a doctor or pharmacist to get directions for use.

The center incorporates the Creative Curriculum in each room to develop lesson plans. They also use a variety of other resources. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans and activities are planned around themes. The length of the theme/unit depends on the topic and the children's interest level. Each room completes a newsletter. Lesson plans were not available for review in the rooms. The Little Guppies has a brand new lead in the room and she plans to develop lesson plans and the Dancing Dolphins currently does not have a lead teacher. A daily schedule was posted in most rooms. A daily

schedule must be posted in the Dancing Dolphins room.

Daily sheets are provided to parents in each room to inform parents on how the child's day was through the Brightwheel app. Parents have loved receiving information this way. The app does not have a spot to document a child's mood. This is a mandated area for children under the age of two-years-old. You should document the children's mood under the notes section if there is not a specific area for mood.

I observed first-aid kits in each room.

There was a phone in each classroom and emergency phone numbers, including the centers address and phone number, were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in all rooms. However, in the school-age room the evacuation diagram is posted near the television. You must move it near the door.

Cribs are used to nap for the infants and cots are used to nap for the older children. An infant was swaddled in the crib during my visit. Children cannot be swaddled as it is a considered a restrictive device and blankets are not allowed in cribs for children under the age of one.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in January 2024 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. Next time you must do a radon test in each room. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the kitchen. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/07/23, with compliance on 02/23/23.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Amy Ball is the primary cook. She makes a new menu each month. The program has a refrigerator, an upright freezer and a chest freezer. Thermometers were present. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher, and they have three industrial sinks to use for the three-step method for larger dishes. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. Meals are served family style for the older children.

The program makes homemade baby food for the infants. Parents provide formula. If parents want the center to provide the formula, they must pay a fee. The center provides the homemade baby food and cereal. Bottles are washed in the infant room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and a thermometer was present.

The program uses Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. Please note that the directions on the product bottle state this requires a portable water rinse on food tables prior to children eating at them. While I was in the Dancing Dolphins the staff member only cleaned the tables with soap and water prior to having the children sit down for lunch. Food tables must be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized, followed by a portable water rinse both before and after all food activity. I informed the staff member of the need to sanitize the table. She did sanitize the table but then wiped it off immediately. This product has a one minute dwell time. The sanitizer must sit on the table for one minute before being wiped off.

The program has a large fenced in playground area that is divided into three spaces. The area for the school age and preschool children has a larger piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities for the children. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. There is a grassy area and a concrete path for riding toys. There is a picnic table for the children to rest. Trees provide shade.

In the second area for children eighteen months through two-years-old, there is also a smaller piece of climbing equipment with slides. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. There are playhouses, rocking toys, pushing toys. There are picnic tables for the children to rest. There is a picnic table for the children to rest. Trees are available for shade.

In the area for the one-year-old children there is a shade shelter. There were also rocking toys, pushing toys, a caterpillar tunnel, dramatic play center and a small slide. Trees are available for shade.

The parent information is in the entrance. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The program did not have the mandatory reporter posting, but this has since been corrected. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Three files did not provide adequate dental emergency contact information. There were four outdated physicals.

I reviewed two staff files. There were two outdated fingerprint results. These should have been completed a year ago under

the previous director. Ms. Taylor states she will go through files and update all record checks.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were pleasant while I was in the center. Each room had at least two staff members. They had good teamwork and communicated with one another about what needed to be done in the room. Staff members encouraged the children to help in the rooms. In the Dancing Dolphins staff members had the children help set out their cots. In the Monkey room staff members had the children help dish out their lunch. The children were excited to be assigned these tasks and help. In the infant room they were playing child friendly music. Staff members were on the floor and they worked on crawling and sitting up with the children. Staff members provided the children with praise in each room. They used positive redirection when necessary. They provided the children with good handwashing reminders.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 09/30/25.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each of the rooms.

Ms. Taylor seems to have embraced the director position. She is dedicated to learning and following licensing standards. I think she will be great in this position.

Ms. Taylor states they are bringing staff members in who want to be there. They have good interaction with the children and they are learning and want to follow procedures.

Ms. Taylor states that Sydney in the Little Guppies room is coming up with new ideas to entertain the children. She is also going to work with CCR&R to arrange her room. She states Riley in the Dancing Dolphins room does fun crafts for the children frequently. She states Carol in the Monkey room is on the floor all the time with the children.

Ms. Taylor states they work with Lisa Wood from CCR&R frequently. She has been a great help and they are making improvements.

Staff members receive a twenty percent discount for childcare while they are working. Extended family members of staff members may also receive the discount.

The toddler room serves as an inclement weather room.

The center is using the Brightwheel app. The Brightwheel app allows parents to sign their children in and out of the center, pay their bills and it is how staff members communicate with parents daily. The parents love the Brightwheel app. The Brightwheel app also has all the emergency contact information for the children.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
Two staff members had outdated fingerprint results. These should have been completed a year ago under the previous director. Ms. Taylor states she will go through files and update all record checks.

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 3
Information lacking: Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Three files did not provide adequate dental emergency contact information.

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.
Please note that the directions on the product bottle state this requires a portable water rinse on food tables prior to children eating at them. While I was in the Dancing Dolphins the staff member only cleaned the tables with soap and water prior to having the children sit down for lunch. Food tables must be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized, followed by a portable water rinse both before and after all food activity. I informed the staff member of the need to sanitize the table. She did sanitize the table but then wiped it off immediately. This product has a one minute dwell time. The sanitizer must sit on the table for one minute before being wiped off. In the infant room there was a homemade diaper cream. Homemade products cannot be used because all products used in the center must come with directions for use. You may take this product to a doctor or pharmacist to get directions for use. In the school-age room you must secure the electrical cords for the television. This was cited in last year's report also. In the Dancing Dolphins room, the staff member was leaving the glove on through the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed with the soiled diaper.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Lesson plans were not available for review in the rooms. The Little Guppies has a brand new lead in the room and she plans to develop lesson plans and the Dancing Dolphins currently does not have a lead teacher. A daily schedule must be posted in the Dancing Dolphins room.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
An infant was swaddled in the crib during my visit. Children cannot be swaddled as it is a considered a restrictive device and blankets are not allowed in cribs for children under the age of one.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.