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

Name of Center: KidZone Christian Daycare Center & Preschool **Enrollment:** 100 **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): Jessica Fiebig **E-Mail:** kidzone@firstpresfd.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-24-2024

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: 06-14-2024

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	12	7	36	50	105
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: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-09-2024

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 06-24-24 where I met with center director Bernadette Ricke, and assistant director, Jessica Fiebig. 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 100 children enrolled in the program served by 20 staff. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The overall layout and design of the building and programming spaces of the center remains the same as in the prior visit. Classrooms are 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 separated from the programming area buy a wall and gated archway. 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 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. 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.

As with the general layout of the building the classrooms have much the same layout and arrangement as in the prior report. One difference is that the 3 year old and preschool age rooms were separated so that each has their own space. This allowed for both classrooms to have more room for the children to move and play. 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. While the school age children have access to many of these same materials they are kept in storage and brought out for use as needed. During the summer the school age children also have a general focus on off-site activities. Each activity center was stocked toys and materials that were generally in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. One issue that was observed was the presence of items and toys with parts that were less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length in the infant and toddler rooms. Items of this size are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Each room had a daily schedule and copy of the planned curriculum posted. The staff in each classroom was actively engaged with the children and presenting the planned curriculum. This included engaging in special play activities both on and off site, staff playing with the children in child directed play, and teacher lead small group activities. Ratio was

maintained in the building as required by age. This included ensuring that an additional staff was present when doing activities off site, and having a teacher in the infant sleeping area when children were sleeping. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the staff using routines, praise and positive recognition, redirection, and guided problem solving to encourage positive behaviors. All staff were observed to have a positive attitude and use calm and encouraging tones when speaking to children.

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 the required procedures posting was present and followed. However, following the diaper change when cleaning the changing station the teacher did hold the child while spraying chemical cleaners. Children should be placed or directed out of the immediate area as a safety precaution when using chemical cleaners. During the visit it was noted that the center does use toddler "potty seats" which are located in a pass-through bathroom between the toddlers and 3 year old classroom. When observing those seats one was observed to have been used but not emptied. While these types of training seats are allowable it was reviewed that they would be treated the same as infant changing stations meaning that they need to be emptied, cleaned, and disinfected immediately after each use. Good hand washing practices were observed with all age groups with the children and staff washing their hands as required and needed, and doing so in an effective manner. Chemical cleaners, purses, diaper bags, 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 including following safe sleep requirements for infants under 1 year of age.

The playground has been fully renovated since the time of the last visit. This includes installation of new commercial grade climbing structures, installation of a unitary foam fall surfacing, and fencing. Awning structures are used for shade. All equipment was observed to be in good repair. In addition to the formal playground space the center had also created a water play area on another side of the building near the preschool classroom. This space was observed to be near a side street and while the street did not have heavy traffic flow some type fencing even if of a temporary nature does need to be installed.

The program makes use of the church kitchen and 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 with staff washing their hands before handling or serving food items. 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, and 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. Diapering and hand washing prostings were present by all changing stations and sinks used for hand washing with the exception of the girls room used by the school age children. 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 4 needing a renewed physical all of which had just expired within the past month. With regard to staff files the self-audit identified 6 needed an updated or initial physical, and 5 had expired Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training certificates. It is noted that Bernadette and Jessica were not aware that the requirements regarding renewal had changed from 4 to 3 years and they stated they would ensure that all staff that needed renewed training completed that. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Radon which could not be found on the day of the visit but it was reported that the center did have new test kits and had scheduled for renewed testing to occur during the upcoming 4th of July holiday when the center would be closed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has completed a complete playground renovation though Bernadette did note that a memorial sitting bench would also be installed at a later date.

Bernadette did identify that the center has been very stable over the past year in terms of child enrollment, staff retention, and program implementation.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination

Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 6

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

109.10(5): Infectious disease control: Centers shall establish policies and procedures related to infection disease control and use of universal precautions with handling of bodily fluid. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste.
-- When using toddler "potty chairs" staff must empty, clean, and disinfect those units immediately following each use.

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 not available on the day of the visit.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Items and toys with parts less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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: 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.