Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids West-Clive Learning Academy

Provider No.: 41570

Address: 1600 73rd St, Windsor Heights, IA, 50324

County: Polk

Director's Name: Ashley Kunz

On-Site Supervisor: Amy Onstot

Phone Number: 5156335018

E-Mail: kunza@wdmcs.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/04/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/12/2023

Comments: Windsor Heights Fire Marshal. Inspections are required per state regulations at least every three years.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] 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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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	190	190
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was completed on 9/4/25. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Kids West Clive Learning Academy is a school-age program located within the Clive Elementary School. The center predominately uses the gym, cafeteria (new cafeteria), and outdoor playground area. The program was given permission to open under HHS (formerly DHS) supervision on 8/22/14. Previous to this date, the center was under the Department of Education's supervision. There is a before and after school component as well as a full-day component during the summer and no school days. Before school hours are 6:30am - 9:05am and after school hours are 3:55pm - 6:00pm (with the exception of Wednesday early out days). Full day programming is 6:30am - 6:00pm.

The center is overseen by a Board and owned by the West Des Moines School District. Ashley Kunz is the new director of this program as well as the seven other Kids West programs. Ashley has a BA degree as well as past experience working in child care. Her past experience includes being an area director for another child care program with multiple sites in the Des Moines metro. The on-site supervisor of this location is Amy Onstot. Amy has her AA degree in Applied Sciences and has also worked in child care for a number of years.

The capacity of the gym is 105 children. The capacity of the cafeteria is 85 children. No issues or concerns were observed in either area.

During the visit, all of the children and staff were leaving the cafeteria and headed outside to play on the playground. This consultant observed staff spaced out among the different groups of playing children. Staff also had first-aid backpacks with them.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has several nights throughout the year where parents are invited to activities. These include, but are not limited to a family orientation night, a Halloween celebration night, other holiday celebrations, etc.

A focal point is for staff to get to know parents of children they serve on a more personal level. Staff believe they have good relationships with the families they serve.

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The center has access to the school dishwasher for sanitizing toys (in addition to spraying toys daily).

A nutritionist reviews all meal items.

The Kids West programs have a behavioral specialist on -site who rotates throughout their eight programs.

Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate throughout different areas used by the center.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together. The on-site supervisor has been with the program for 30 years.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

Staff pictures are posted.

The director attends meetings with other directors of school-age programs in the western suburbs throughout the year.

The on-site supervisor has weekly staff meetings with other Kids West on-site supervisors.

The on-site supervisor has monthly all staff meetings with her staff.

The center has a good working relationship with other school personnel.

The center has a lot more storage space and room to move around since the new addition (cafeteria) was added.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The playground has been fenced in over the past year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a: All files contain: Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check. Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable. Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
Two staff are past due again for SING checks being ran.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they serve school-age children in a school building. Should the center start up a wrap-around preschool program, they will then need to have a carbon monoxide detector in the preschool room, test for radon in the preschool room, and have copies of fuel burning appliance annual inspections.

Should the program open a wrap-around program in the future, the classroom capacity will be 22 children. This classroom was observed at the visit on 8/26/24.

The center continues to contract with the school district for field trips and takes a school bus.

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The school nutrition department provides meals to children.

I - Power was again discussed at this year's visit. All staff will need to have I-Power profiles and be uploading training certificates.

On the playground, it was noted that the bolts along the new fence are longer than two threads showing. These should be cut. There were also some areas in the poured in place rubber area that have been cut out. Finally, one climbing structure has metal threads sticking out of the handles creating a hazard.

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nathan Knepper

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**.