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

Name of Center: The King's Kids Preschool **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18086

Street: 905 13th St SW **City:** Humboldt Iowa **Zip** 50548 **County:** Humboldt

Mailing Address: PO Box 506, Humboldt, IA, 50548

Director's Name: Kelsey Wigans **Phone Number:** 515-890-0492

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kingskidsiowa@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-19-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-26-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-08-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			67		67
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-01-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Kings Kids Preschool on 09-19-24 where I met with the center director Kelsey Wigans. Kelsey is well qualified for the director position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood education. The program is located in a wing of the Oak Hill Church in Humboldt and is overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program provides preschool programming only serving children 3 and 4 years of age. There are currently 20 children enrolled in the program with a class of 11 3 year old children, and a class of 9 4 year old children served by 4 teachers. Both classes were present on the day of my visit with each using different classrooms. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit. During the visit it was noted that there was no hot water present in the building. Kelsey did confirm that there had been a gas line break in the neighborhood which was being repaired.

The program has access to three classrooms with two that are smaller and used for more traditional programming with group learning and activity centers, and a larger classroom that is used for snack service, craft activities, and media. The program also has access to a large indoor gymnasium. Each classroom was observed to be clean with no issues related to maintenance or design. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and secondary emergency egress. Each room has sinks in the classroom that provide for handwashing, and all but one of the classrooms have restroom facilities directly accessible from the room. For the classroom that does not have restroom facilities the children are escorted to a restroom in one of the other classrooms, or to the restrooms located off the main corridor space.

As noted the center has 3 classrooms and is currently implementing a primary use focus approach with one room being used for center play, one for large and small group learning, and one for snack and craft activities. The classes moved between these rooms as groups depending on their programming schedule. Each classroom and activity center were arranged so that the children had room to move and play without creating any blind areas. The materials present were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The center did have schedules and a planned curriculum was in place a copy of the planned curriculum was not posted. Kelsey identified that a newsletter is provided to parents which identifies the planned curriculum posted. Good interactions were observed with the teachers being engaged with the children providing supervision and playing with the children. The teachers continue to use positive behavior management techniques of praise, reminders, redirection, guided problem solving, and limited time out. All of the teachers were observed to use calm and encouraging tones when speaking to the children. One issue that was noted was with regard to maintaining ratio in the classrooms. As noted there were two classes present with one for 3 year old children and the other for the 4 year old children. With the center using a room focus approach where by the classes rotated between the rooms there was a period where the 3 year old children moved to rooms used for activity centers and group learning while the 4 year old children moved to the room used for snacks and craft activities. When making that shift Kelsey worked with the children in the activity and group rooms while the other teachers stayed in the cafeteria/craft room. This was an issue as there were 11 3 year old children present which require a staff to child ratio of 1:10. While the program had sufficient staff to maintain this ratio requirement the center was in violation when Kelsey was the only teacher present in the room with the 3 year olds.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit but some practices do need to be reviewed. The

teachers did ensure that the children washed their hands as needed and in an effective manner following restroom use, and prior to snack service. Staff hand washing was more mixed with staff not washing their hands immediately prior to assisting children with snack service. Purses, chemical cleaners, and other items that could be a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. When using chemical cleaners to sanitize surfaces such as the tables where the children were eating the teachers did wait for the children to be out of the immediate area. First aid kits were present do contain items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Due to the limited hours of operation the center does not routinely administer medications but has policies in place should it become necessary. The center does maintain allergy plans for food related allergies, but not for medication or environmental allergies. It was reviewed that while the risk is limited it is still required for allergy plans to be present for all diagnosed or identified allergies.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The children take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of recommended snack items is provided to parents. The children did have snack during the visit and were provided with pre-packed individual servings of snack crackers, and milk. While the center does not know what snack options will be provided by parents beforehand a menu of the snacks that were served is maintained. Good food storage practices were observed during the visit. There issues with regard to food handling and supervision during the visit. The staff did not wash their hands prior to snack service, nor did they wear food service gloves. Staff did not eat with the children but did provide supervision. While the children were eating one child was observed to drop food items on the floor, pick them up, and eat them. This was done during a time that the child was directly observed by the teacher present but the child was not directed to not eat the items. In addition one child was observed to put their feet and shoes on the table while peers were eating and it was not immediately directed to return them to the floor.

The center does not have a traditional outdoor playground but does have access to an indoor gymnasium with equipment that can be used for large motor skill activities. The program also has options for using grassy areas, sectioned off areas of the parking lot, or going for walks to community venues for outdoor programming.

In reviewing administrative information the required postings for No Smoking posting, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and the Consultant Contact notice were present near the entrance used by parents. Emergency evacuation notices had been updated to include diagram and written instructions for both fire and tornado evacuation. A random sample of 20% of child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information with the exception of those needing medication/environmental allergy plans. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required background checks, and training certificates. The center handbooks were previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies. All inspection logs and drills were current and available with the exception of Radon testing which will need to be completed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a program has continued to experience growth over the past year with increasing enrollment and adding staff. The center did maintain the staff who had been present in the prior year which also provided a level of continuity and stability for the program.

Kelsey did address those issues identified in the prior report, and was very responsive to addressing those issues identified in the current visit.

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

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age.
-- When classes transitioned between use intent rooms there was only 1 teachers present with 11 3 year old children which would have required 2 teachers. While there was sufficient staff to maintain ratio they do need to be in the rooms where the children are present to ensure each room/group is in ratio.

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 was not available on the day of the visit. Radon testing does need to be completed in all programming spaces.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- Staff did not wash their hands or wear food service gloves when assisting with snack service. Children were observed to drop food on the floor, pick it up, and eat it while in view of staff but were not directed to leave the food on the floor. Another child was observed to place their feet on the table and was not immediately directed to remove them.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.