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

Name of Center: Koalaty Time Encore **Enrollment:** 256 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25466

Street: 2500 NW 128th St **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50323 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2500 NW 128th Street, Urbandale, IA, 50323

Director's Name: Jan Castagnoli **Phone Number:** 515-278-5220

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cortney H, Katelyn C, Alyxis B **E-Mail:** jan@koalatytime.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-05-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-15-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-30-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	82	24	154		260
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-06-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 2/5/24. The owner/director was present throughout the visit as were several on-site supervisors at times.

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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Koalaty Time Encore opened in January of 2006. Jan Castagnoli is the owner and director and has been since this center opened for business. Jan has been in the field for many years and has owned other centers at different times throughout her career. This is the only center she now owns and operates. There are three on-site supervisors. They are Cortney Hougham, Katelyn Cox, and Alyxis Beltz. All individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

This center serves children ages six weeks in age to five years in age using their own learning curriculum which incorporates math, phonics, cite words, and S.T.E.M. There are a total of 18 classrooms located within several pods of the center.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities. In several classrooms, staff and children were sitting on the floor for circle/calendar/group time and singing and reading. In several classrooms children were observed washing their hands and then sitting down for lunch. Several infant children were napping in cribs. Drama class was being coached in the large motor classroom. Staff were engaging with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. There is a lot of longevity with some of the tenured staff. The owner believes her staff work well together and communicate well with parents. Staff questioned stated they enjoy working at the center and working for Jan because it is like a family environment. Staff stated they enjoyed working with children. Jan stated she makes it a point to highlight good work by her staff in a variety of ways. There are incentive programs in place for staff. The owner/director and staff have good relationships with the families they serve.

Enrollment remains steady.

There is a camera system in classrooms and there is a secure entrance into the building.

There is an indoor gym when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

The center participates in drama, tennis, and soccer programs. There are other agencies who regularly visit the center to provide activities for children.

The center employs a full-time cook.

The center is very clean and nicely decorated.

The center is very large, yet has averaged between 98% - 100% on their immunization audits for the past several years in a row. Their last audit in 11/2023 they received 100%.

Good child and staff interactions and activities were again observed.

The center has a website where additional information can be found. They also are using the on-line application, Hi Mama to communicate with families. There is an internal communication system used by staff called Bamboo.

Job responsibilities between the director and on-site supervisors are divided up where there is one staff focused on daily classroom safety, another staff organizes files, etc.

The curriculum used by the center is detailed.

The center has a therapy dog.

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

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.
In several of the infant classrooms, there were some cribs where the sheets were not tight fitting.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 11/25/22 - 11/27/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 10/11/23.

As previously mentioned, for transportation/field trips, the center does not transport. For field trips, the center brings in different agencies and organizations for presentations to the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

It was noted that on the smaller playground, the bolts/nuts are in the process of being replaced. There was also a small crack in one area, but it does not yet seem to impact the structure in any manner.

The most current monthly playground inspection form was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.