Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Springville Elementary School

Provider No.: 52539

Address: 400 Academy ST, Springville, IA, 52336

County: Linn

Director's Name: Bethany "Bree" Hogue

On-Site Supervisor: Sierra Lief

Phone Number: 3194975957

E-Mail: Bree.Hogue@discoverchampions.com
SSous@discoverchampions.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/30/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/03/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			2	18	20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. was founded in 1969 and has grown to become one of the largest providers of childcare in the United States. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. is currently primarily owned by Partners Group a Swiss private equity firm as well as other shareholders and investors. KCE Champions LLC is a division of KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. and included as a core brand along with KinderCare Learning Centers and The Creme School. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to KCE Champions LLC @ Springville Elementary School which commenced operations in 8/23/2024. This location includes childcare for school-age children outside of school hours including the option to provide full days of childcare on no school days and extended school breaks including winter, spring and summer breaks. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 13 on 1/30/2026.

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. has a regional manager named Setara Sous. Ms. Sous has a BA in criminology, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training. Ms. Sous qualified for an Iowa director role in January 2024. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. has an area manager named Bethany "Bree" Hogue. Ms. Hogue qualified for the Iowa licensed childcare director role when this program first commenced operations in 2022. Ms. Hogue reports working towards completion of an AA degree in early childhood education, has experience working with children and participates in child development training. Ms. Hogue is not only the director of this specific KCE Champions LLC location as she is also the director of several other Iowa locations. As a result, this location is required to have at least one Iowa licensed childcare qualified on-site supervisor (OSS). Sierra Lief qualified for the Iowa OSS role in December 2025 and been in the OSS role for this location since qualifying. Ms. Lief has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 1/30/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in the board room of the preschool building. The

program also has some access to the building's indoor gymnasium and outdoor school play areas. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. All foods offered to the childcare children are stored and prepared by the Springville Community School District. On 1/30/2026, before school activities (e.g. puzzles, books, games, crafts) as well as routine morning transitions were observed. The area of study was noted as folk music. Evidence of previous days' curriculum included handmade child tambourines and painted shakers (e.g. milk jugs with beans). Most noteworthy on the day of this license visit was when the children began practicing and perfecting magic tricks learned in days prior. Staff acknowledged how their location offers special enrichment clubs on different days including a magic club and agricultural club. On 1/30/2026, curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation, good sportsmanship, the use of social graces and child choice. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff were observed to be in ratio and engaged in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the mornings' events.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..."

KCE Champions LLC @ Springville Elementary School has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/champions/.

As of 1/30/2026, KCE Champions LLC programs remain for profit and operate under a board of directors having several Chief Operators including ones specific to operations, finance, curriculum and branding. The local management team (e.g. Ms. Sous, Ms. Hogue, Ms. Lief) remains primarily consistent. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures. Ms. Lief discussed goals related to increasing the special clubs offered as the children seem to really enjoy these.

On 1/30/2026, KCE Champions LLC @ Springville Elementary School was found to have an area for required postings as well as other information. Curriculum continues to focus on six content areas that research shows enhance children’s growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness, healthy eating, and homework assistance (as needed) are part of the program’s operations. Extended school-summer break curriculum continues to be enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips. Ms. Lief discussed already planning for summer 2026 which will include General Mills, farm animals, and local hero experiences. On 1/30/2026, organization, planning and carrying out of curriculum was found to be commendable (e.g. Clever unique club boxes established by the on-site staff!). Children were overheard freely talking among themselves and with the staff about the many recent activities and projects they've been enjoying!

KCE Champions LLC continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On 1/30/2026, Ms. Lief acknowledged how their location continues to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their policies and procedures. Ms. Lief also talked about having support from the school (e.g. school kitchen staff, school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team) as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs. School kitchen is inspected by the local health department. There is an AED on-site.

KCE Champions LLC locations including this specific location have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through air quality alerts (2023, 2025), repeated expansion and acquisition events, and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

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None noted.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Ms. Lief acknowledged the program has a preschool-age child who has enrolled but is not yet attending. Due to enrolling children under school-age, the environment rules now apply. Please review rules and ensure administrative items related to the environmental rules are now also obtained and maintained (e.g. radon testing, lead paint hazards, annual all fuel appliance inspection, UL Standard 2034 carbon monoxide detector on each floor).

Ensure administrative paperwork is maintained for at least the current and previous year on-site (e.g. monthly fire drill, monthly tornado drill, monthly outdoor play inspection). On 1/30/2026, the previous year's records were not all available and able to be reviewed. This will be noted as a violation in future reports.

Obtain a thermometer for the childcare food refrigerator. This was noted in the previous annual monitoring visit report and needs to be remedied.

Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. sufficient cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If any area of the outdoor play space becomes unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 02/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.