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

Name of Center: Westlakes KinderCare **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27840

Street: 6670 University AVE **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 6670 University AVE, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Stacie Cardoza **Phone Number:** 515-221-0718

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mya Love **E-Mail:** 301789@klcorp.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-11-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-14-2024

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections to be completed at least every three years. West Des Moines Fire Department do these inspections yearly.

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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*
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			

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	36	34	64		134
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 12-12-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 12/11/24. The director was present throughout the 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.

Westlakes Kindercare is owned by Knowledge Universe Corporation. This is one of several centers in the Des Moines Metro area. This center serves children six weeks in age through five years in age and the center uses a Kindercare specific curriculum. The center is open year-round, Monday through Friday. There are a total of eight classrooms.

Amanda Koch is the district leader of this center. Stacie Cardoza is the director of this center. Stacie has some college credit and has a lot of years of experience working in child care which includes 10 plus years at this center in a variety of roles. Mya Love is the new on-site supervisor at this location. Mya also has a lot of experience working in child care and has taken a number of professional development training to meet requirements for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities which includes napping in cribs and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up among the classrooms. Children were observed washing their hands. Staff were engaged with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KinderCare centers are well supported through the corporate office.

The center has NAEYC accreditation.

The center has a website through their corporate office.

Staff pictures are posted in the main foyer and in the classrooms.

Lesson plans are individualized for children under twelve months of age.

The center has a secured entrance and locked doors at the classrooms.

The center participates in the CACFP food program.

The center uses the Kindercare app, Hi Mama for daily sheets and communicating with parents.

The center employs a full-time cook.

Staff use walkie talkies to communicate with each other when in different areas of the center building when they need assistance.

Good staff-child interactions were observed.

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

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for: Mandatory reporter requirements. Notice of availability of handbook. Program activities. These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public.
The Mandatory Reporter posting was not posted on the day of the visit.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child was roughly a month past due for an annual update. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1 child did not have an updated physical in their file. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes. Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Diapering procedures were not posted in the toddler classroom.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 11/8/23 - 11/11/23. Four classrooms were tested. In the future, all eight classrooms should be tested. Radon levels all came back 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 completed on 12/9/24. There are four furnaces and one was replaced. The center will need to ensure they get a copy of this invoice.

The center does not transport and they do not go on field trips. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations to the children.

IQ4K was discussed at the visit. The center is considering participating in this in the future.

I - Power was discussed. All staff will need to have I - Power profiles and be uploading their annual training certificates.

Religious immunization exemptions no longer need to be notarized.

A Mandatory Reporter posting and a diapering procedures posting was emailed to the director after the visit concluded.

*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.