Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Westlakes KinderCare

Provider No.: 27840

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

County: Polk

Director's Name: Stacie Cardoza

On-Site Supervisor: Mya Love

Phone Number: 5152210718

E-Mail: 301789@klcorp.com
Stacie.Cardoza@kindercare.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/02/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/04/2024

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

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: NAEYC

Program Duration:

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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:

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

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

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 12/2/25. 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 (not fully because of large snow cover), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Westlakes Kindercare is owned by Knowledge Universe Corporation. This is one of several Kindercare 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.

Courtney Oltjenbruns is the district leader of this center. Stacie Cardoza is the director of this center. Stacie has several college credits 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 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 having a diaper changed, napping in cribs, washing their hands, engaged in large group story book activities being facilitated by staff, and engaged in free - choice play at the different learning stations made available to them in another classroom. Toys, tables, and other classroom equipment are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily. Staff questioned gave specific answers as to where they take children for monthly fire and tornado drills.

Enrollment of the center at the time of the inspection visit is 66 children. The center application along with payment was

sent in 11/20/25 per the director.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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.

The center has created a Health and Safety Coordinator position to ensure daily, weekly, monthly tasks are being completed in each classroom.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. One staff member is awaiting fingerprint results. Fingerprinting was done late for this staff member.

2. a) There was a dangling cord in the infant classroom that needs to be more securely fastened to the wall.
   b) Cots should not be stored right next to the diapering table in the 2's/3's classroom.

3. Monthly playground inspections were not recorded for 11/2025.

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

N/A.

5. 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. Another inspection is needed by end of 12/2025.

Nutrition: The center participates in the CACFP. The center serves breakfast, lunch, and a PM snack to children. There is

a full kitchen to prepare meals.

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 again discussed at the visit. The center is still considering participating in this in the future.

I - Power was discussed. As stated at last year's inspection, all staff will need to have I - Power profiles and be uploading their annual training certificates. Any staff no longer employed with the center should have their I - Power profiles unlinked from the center.

It is recommended that the center Emergency Preparedness Kit be stored in a container that has wheels for easier transport if ever needed.

There were a few child immunizations that were signed, but not dated. All immunizations need to be signed and dated.

The bungee cord holding bottle warmers in place on the counter should be removed.

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

Date: 12/02/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate 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**.