Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc

Provider No.: 19260

Address: 404 N Pine St, West Union, IA, 52175

County: Fayette

Director's Name: Mary O'Kones

On-Site Supervisor: Hunter Berg

Phone Number: 5634225379

E-Mail: kkcc.office@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/22/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/06/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	17	24	48	30	119
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/22/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc. in West Union. I met with Mary O'Kones, the director. Ms. O'Kones has a BA in psychology and she is a NAEYC member. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). Hunter Berg is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher in the three-year-old preschool room. He has an early childhood diploma and a paraeducator certificate. Mr. Berg is in charge when Ms. O'Kones is away from the center. There are 24 staff members employed by the center.

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center originally opened August 8th, 2007, in the United Methodist Church in West Union. They started in their new location 01/05/15. The center is a community non-profit program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are infants through school-age. It offers a three-year-old preschool program during the school year that operates on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. There are currently 91 children enrolled.

The program utilizes the following classrooms: infant room (six weeks through eighteen months old), toddler room (eighteen months through two-years-old), a preschool room for three and four-year-olds and a school-age room. The four/five-year-old children meet in either the preschool room or the school-age room. The program also has access to an additional room in the center during the summer that is used by Hippity Hop Preschool during the school year. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler room and three-year-old preschool room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool program uses the Creative Curriculum, Heggerty for phonemic awareness, Jolly Phonics and other resources. Assessments are completed in the fall and spring in the preschool room. Activities are planned around weekly themes. Each teacher is responsible for developing their own lesson plans. The preschool program follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

Mats are used to nap in the preschool room. Cots are used to nap in the toddler room. Cribs and cots are used to nap in the infant room.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The program uses the ProCare app in the infant, toddler and three-year-old PreK classrooms to provide daily reports to parents and to reduce paper/copying costs. The program also uses this app as their medication authorization forms. Medications are documented with the type of medicated product, the time and the initials of the worker. The program can access past med sheets if necessary.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in September 2025 and is good for two years because the program has a radon mitigation system. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway outside of the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/06/25.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Karen Baumler is the cook. The center serves breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. A new menu is prepared each month by Ms. Baumler. The children eat in their rooms. Family style is not used. The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is one refrigerator, two upright freezers, two chest freezers and a milk cooler. There were thermometers present. There is a refrigerator in the storage closet in the toddler room and a thermometer was present. There are two dishwashers available to wash dishes. There are also five sinks in the kitchen; three of the sinks are for dishwashing and two sinks are for food prep. Food items in the pantry and kitchen were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus and allergies were posted.

The parents provide formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. Bottles are sent home to be washed each day. Cups and bowls are returned to the kitchen for washing and sanitation. There were two refrigerators and a freezer in the infant room and thermometers were present. The infant room has feeding schedules posted for each child.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and they use Oxivir Tb to disinfect the diaper changing tables. I discussed and observed diaper changes in the rooms and proper procedures are followed.

In the infant room there is one handwashing sink and one food prep sink and there are two diaper changing tables. In the toddler room there are two sinks in the classroom, two diaper changing tables and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. In the preschool and school-age rooms there are two sinks in the room and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted where necessary. There are timers in the rooms with the diaper changing tables so that the disinfectant sits on the tables for the mandated dwell time.

There are two large fenced in playgrounds behind the center. One area is for children aged two through five-years-old and one area is for preschool and school-age children. The area for children two through five-years-old has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a tunnel and a climbing wall. There is a small sandbox, playhouses, picnic tables and dramatic play equipment. There is also a grassy area and a tree that provides shade. There is a storage shed in the area.

In the preschool area there is a Tot Tree that the infant and toddler rooms can use. Staff members provide careful supervision to keep children off the climbing equipment, but they can play on the grass.

The area for the school-aged children has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a large grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, sensory table and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. Ms. O'Kones states they often take the older children to local parks.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance near the office. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. There are parent resources in the entrance.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The leadership of the program is committed to providing a safe environment for the children. Staff members had great

interaction with the children. They provided attention to each child. They were patient with children and flexible with their schedules. Staff members acknowledged the feelings of upset children. They were empathetic. Staff members were engaged in positive conversation. They had the children involved in fun and creative learning activities that encouraged imagination. They used play to talk with the colors about colors and counting. Staff members brought a positive energy to the room. There was good communication between staff members. Staff members entertained children. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise and encouragement. They assisted with handwashing and complimented good manners. Child friendly music was playing in the rooms. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

Ms. O'Kones states overall the staff longevity is very good. Several staff members have worked at the center for five years or longer. They have good luck with their lead teachers staying.

Ms. O'Kones states that 80% of the center's lead teachers have degrees in Early Childhood or have early childhood diplomas.

Ms. O'Kones states staff members step up to help when and where they are needed.

Ms. O'Kones states they are having staff members work more hours to help with staff consistency.

Ms. O'Kones states they have diversity of age groups for staff members. Some are in high school, college, mid-life and retired.

Ms. O'Kones states they continue to have strong enrollment and they have a waiting list.

Ms. O'Kones states staff members are taking all their mandated training.

Ms. O'Kones states they received the Growing Iowa funds and Palmer Memorial Foundation Grant that have helped pay for a recent mold problem they had to correct.

Ms. O'Kones states staff members have organized classrooms and good lesson planning.

Ms. O'Kones states the staff members are good at recognizing and working through their emotions and frustrations. Ms. O'Kones states she works hard to keep everyone happy.

Ms. O'Kones states they have secures doors and security cameras in place.

There are staff pictures and bios in place on the "Meet the Staff" bulletin board, in addition to on the wall outside of each classroom door for the rooms they are working in that day.

Ms. O'Kones continues to be NAC certified and a member of NAEYC. She has been employed by the center for 18 years.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no citations.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I met with Ms. O'Kones following my observations in the classrooms. The program had a terrific visit with no citations.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 10/29/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.