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

Name of Center: At Home Education Services dba Kinderhaus **Enrollment:** 21 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51119

Street: 1148 4th St SE **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 911 N. Madison Ave, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Kelsey Determan **Phone Number:** 641-425-7079

On-Site Supervisor(s): Angie Hansen (owner) **E-Mail:** kinderhausmc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-14-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-20-2020

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA X Other NA

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			15		15
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-26-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Kinderhause Preschool on 09-14-23 where I met with lead teacher and program director Kelsey Determan. Kelsey is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor degree, and experience in Early Elementary Education and has been the director since since the program opened in 2020. Kelsey identified that she has two assistants this year, Katie Klemesrud, and Libby Wickman. The program is operated as a for profit entity owned by Angie Hansen. The program is located in the St. James Lutheran Church but is operated independently of the church. The center provides preschool programming only in two classes. One class operates daily in the morning, and the other 3 days a week in the afternoon. There are currently 21 (12 & 9) children enrolled in the program between the two sessions. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the facility and classrooms remains much the same as in previous visits. The program makes use of two rooms though one is the primary programming space and the other was being used primarily for coats. bags, and storage. The rooms are connected by an intervening door which serves as providing secondary egress for the rooms. Windows are located along the exterior walls and provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Restrooms are located outside the classrooms off the main corridor and children are escorted to the restrooms as needed. The room was observed to be clean with no concerns noted with regard to maintenance.

The main programming room has space for 13 children. The room is divided into activity centers through the placement of shelves, furniture, and play structures. The general arrangement is a more open floor plan on one side, and small tables on the other. Activity centers included math, art, language, practical life, science, and group learning among other things. The room was arranged so the children had ample space to move and play without creating any blind areas. The room was nicely decorated with a combination of commercially produced learning concepts postings, and the children's art work. A copy of the daily schedule was posted, and the curriculum plan is provided to parents in a newsletter and via a communication application. The program follows a Montessori approach which allows children to engage in self-interest explorational learning with guided questioning. An overarching theme focus is used to help guide the class with the planned themes for September being Astronomy, flower arranging/rock painting, and magnets. Good interactions were observed with both teachers working with the children, talking to them about their play, and reviewing learning concepts. Good behavior management practices were observed with the teachers using transition cues, guided reminders, and helping children identify positive choice options.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. The center did not have any children that were currently taking any medications. First aid kits are maintained in the classroom and taken out to the playground when the children go outside and are stocked with items sufficient to address most common first aid needs. Children were taken to the restroom to wash their hands but the center also has a portable water cooler and basin which is used for handwashing in the classroom. The teaches did remind the children to wash their hands prior to eating snacks. Chemical cleaners, purses, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in an area where they were not accessible.

Due to the limited hours of operation the program does not serve meals but snacks are provided. A copy of the planned menu was posted on the day of my visit and identified a good variety of nutritious snack options. The snack menu follows a

weekly option and during the time of the visit included bananas, Graham crackers, celery, and peanut butter. The snacks are available throughout the time the program is in operation and children are allowed to choose what they want, and when they want the snack. This does lead to some increased risk for disease transmission as children may handle several different food items, and tables may not be properly sanitized before/after children sit down to eat.

The center does have an outdoor play space that consists of an inner courtyard surrounded by the building on three sides, and the open side provides access via a long sidewalk. Cones are placed as a visual cue to the children to denote the boundaries of the allowed play area. There are no climbing structures but the program does make use of a variety of toys and materials such as balancing steps, structure blocks, and other play items that are brought out for the children.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. The children's files were reviewed and contained all required information though some are still working to obtain a current physical. One issue that was noted is with regard to allergy plans. While Kelsey did have Diet Modification forms for children with food allergies the form does not incude information on what an allergic reaction looks like, nor how to treat an allergic reaction. In addition centers are required to have allergy plans for all identified allergies including environmental and medication. Sample forms were provided to Kelsey to ensure that she obtained all required allergy response plans and information. Staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Inspection logs and certificates could not be located at the time of the visit but documentation was forwarded via e-mail to show that all were available and current. The center handbooks were previously reviewed and all required policies were present.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

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

109.9(2)g: Any child with allergies, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises. -- Documentation was insufficient. Allergy plans are required for all identified/diagnosed allergies (food, environmental, medication), and shall contain emergency contact information, information on the allergen and where it is commonly found, plans to avoid accidental exposure, symptoms of accidental exposure, and response to accidental exposure.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.