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

Name of Center: University Kids LLC **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48205

Street: 111 DeSoto RD **City:** Van Meter Iowa **Zip** 50261 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 111 DeSoto RD, Van Meter, IA, 50261

Director's Name: Tayler Sorensen **Phone Number:** 515-996-9141

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** Directoruniversitykids@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-09-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-19-2025

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

Date Inspected: 02-13-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	12	11	16	23	62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-10-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/9/25. The owner and director were present throughout the visit. The licensing consultant from the Sioux City area was also present throughout this visit inspection.

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.

University Kids is a center in Van Meter that was given permission to open on 1/3/17 under new ownership and a new name. The center was previously known as Country Kids Club. Hayley Carlson purchased the center from the previous owner. The center serves children ages six weeks in age through mostly five years in age although a few school-age children also attend because they have younger siblings who attend. The center utilizes their own learning curriculum in their teachings. There are two levels to the center and a total of five classrooms.

Tayler Sorensen is the director as of 10/2021. Tayler has an AA in Early Childhood Education and has past experience working in child care. The center does not currently have an on-site supervisor, but the director is in process of hiring another one.

During the visit, children were observed sitting down at the child-size tables and chairs eating lunch in a couple of classrooms. Children were also observed washing their hands, being held by staff while being bottle fed, and napping in cribs. Children gave specific answers to questions related to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director felt she has a good group of staff. Staff work well together.

The director is very organized.

The center was clean and smelled clean. There is good, natural lighting throughout much of the center.

The center has a good mix of new and tenured staff.

The center has a Facebook page. The center also uses an electronic app (Child Pilot) to communicate with parents of all children enrolled throughout the day. Parent teacher conferences are also held. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in their children's activities.

Good staff and child interactions were again observed in all areas.

The center has a full-time cook.

The director attends meetings regularly with other area directors.

The center has good community partnerships in the Van Meter area. The center has several volunteer opportunities they participate in throughout the year (staff and children).

Within the past year, the center has again done some interior painting, replaced some appliances, upgraded the parking lot in an area, and repaired part of the playground area.

Enrollment has increased slightly over the past year.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
1. There were some cleaners stored in a lower cabinet in the three year old classroom where the safety latch on the cabinet wasn't sufficiently latching.
2. On the playground, a couple of riding toys were in need of repair (one cracked plastic tire, and one tricycle missing a peddle). New screws/bolts were installed on a climber, but they need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. THE PLAYGROUND IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH FOR DIFFERENT THINGS THIS YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 3/16/23 - 3/24/23. Because radon levels came back below 4.0, the center doesn't have to test again for radon until at least 3/2028. If radon levels remain below the 4.0 cutoff, radon testing can remain every five years. If 4.0 or higher, they will need retest and then go back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection on file was from 4/23/24 so it is again coming due soon.

The center has a van to transport preschool children to school and to also use for field trips. Regular maintenance is performed on the van.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload their training certificates if it is not automatically uploaded for them. Any staff no longer employed with the center should be unlinked from the center in I - Power as well. The center has had conversations with their CCR&R consultant in regards to IQ4K.

It is recommended outdoor playground mats be purchased and placed at the bottom of the slide and under swings of the large climbing structure. This will help preserve wood chip depth and surfacing.

The center mentioned installing cameras to classrooms. This consultant would support and recommend that decision. This consultant would also recommend not having a live feed on the camera system.

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

*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.