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

Name of Center: Kingdom Kids **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42695

Street: 315 Oak Ridge RD **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 849 Belle ST, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Faith Garcia **Phone Number:** 319-505-2585

On-Site Supervisor(s): Natalie Garcia & Nick Garcia **E-Mail:** kingdomkidspsdc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-10-2025

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: 10-19-2023

Comments : Compliance on 11/18/23

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	38	21	21	32	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 03-20-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 03/10/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Kingdom Kids in Waterloo. The childcare center opened on 01/14/14. I spoke with Faith Garcia, the owner and director, Natalie Garcia an on-site supervisor, and Nick Garcia, an on-site supervisor. Faith Garcia has a BS in elementary education and was previously a teacher in the Waterloo School System. Natalie Garcia started in April 2020 and has a BA in elementary education. She was previously a teacher at an elementary school for three years in the Waterloo School System. Mr. Garcia primarily deals with the finances but he also cooks and helps in rooms. Mr. Garcia started with the program in November 2019. He was previously employed working in a BD classroom in the Waterloo School System. The center employs ten staff members.

The center is in a free-standing building that had at one time been an elementary school. The building was built in 1969. It operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 5:00 pm. The center serves infants through school-age children. There are currently 52 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infants (six weeks through 18 months), 18 months through two-years-old, three through five-year-old preschool room, and school-age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the rooms for the older children.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, science/discovery, math, woodworking, puppets, 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. Most materials were in good condition. There is a table in the school age/preschool room that has the edging falling off. This presents a pinching hazard and must be repaired. There is a multi-colored vinyl mat in the school age/preschool room that has tears with exposed foam. Once foam is exposed it cannot be properly supervised. This should be repaired or removed. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. Secure the electrical cord for the refrigerator in the school age/preschool room so children do not have access to it.

The childcare center primarily uses the Applebaum Daily Curriculum for themes, Character Counts for social/emotional needs, and Letter People for literacy. They also use a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Activities are planned around weekly themes. Lesson plans are prepared by each teacher. The program is Christian based and incorporates prayer and Bible stories. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

Emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in all areas where phones are located. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all 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. A radon test was completed in March 2023. The results were within EPA guidelines. Next time you complete radon testing it must be performed in every program room. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns

were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the food pantry and in the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/19/23.

The center does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Nick Garcia is the cook. The program uses a four-week rotation of menus. The center serves breakfast, lunch, and a morning and afternoon snack. Menus were posted in the entrance and the kitchen. The children eat in their rooms. Family style is not being used.

The center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal for the infants. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are prepared in the room. Staff members are washing the bottles in the room using the three-step method.

There is a refrigerator in each of the program rooms. Thermometers were present. The thermometer in the school age/preschool room appears to be broken and should be replaced.

The kitchen was observed to be clean. Dishes are washed using the three-step method and they also use a dishwasher. There is a refrigerator in the kitchen and a chest freezer and refrigerator in the storage room. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. There is a plan to remodel the kitchen.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. Bottles were clearly labeled.

I discussed diaper changes with the infant room staff members. Staff members were only washing children's hands with wet wipes. Wet wipes do not have a cleaning agent. Children must have their hands with soap and water. This can be done at the sink or by using the three step method, where you wet the children's hands with a rag, then wash the children's hands with a soapy rag and then use a third wet rag to clean off the soap.

Daily sheets are maintained as mandated. The room for children 18 months old through two-years-old are maintaining daily sheets, however, for the children under the age of two the daily sheets must maintain information on what the children eat during the day.

There are medication sheets in the infant room that have not been signed by parents. No medications, including over the counter medications, cannot be used for children unless medication sheets are signed by a parent. Additionally, parents must provide a note from the doctor with the dosage for medications such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen and acetaminophen. The directions on the product must fully be followed.

Cribs are used to nap for infants and mats are used for the older children.

The outdoor play area is fenced in and divided into two areas. There is shade structure in the toddler area. There is a sandbox in this area. There is a playhouse and a stationary car for the children to play on.

The area for the older children is larger. It has a sandbox, teeter totter plane and a stationary car for the children to climb on. Sand is used for surface cushioning. There is a slide in this area. There are also playhouses in this area.

There is a space in the middle of the center used for gross motor activities when the children cannot go outside. There is a ball pit and a piece of enclosed climbing equipment. There is a climbing wall on the outside of this piece and a mat is below for fall surfacing. There is a caterpillar for the children to climb through and several centers to entertain the children.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. 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.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children. The rooms were playing child friendly music. In the two rooms for the older children the staff members were reading to the children. They made the story fun and included the children in the story. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children in all the rooms. Staff members invited children to help them with tasks. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. They sat on the floor with the children and introduced them to activities. They were nurturing and provided the children with praise. They used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Natalie states they have great teamwork and they work well together. The staff members get along with each other and there is no gossip.

Faith states their staff members are there for the children.

Faith states they love the children and the families.

Natalie states they are all there for the right reasons. Natalie states her, Faith and Nick all gave up their careers in schools to work here.

The program has an IQ4K level of 3 that expires on 04/30/26.

The program has a lot educational and entertaining centers for the children to play with. This offers a lot of variety and prevents children from getting bored.

The program is in a secured building.

Faith, Natalie and Nick Garcia all have experience working in the school setting. They bring that skill set to the center. Nick previously worked in a BD room in the Waterloo School System and brings that skill set to the program.

The program incorporates a Christian aspect in their curriculum.

The program uses ProCare software for billing, attendance and schedules.

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

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
Children's hands must be washed with soap and water following all diaper changes.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Additional concerns: There is a table in the school age/preschool room that has the edging falling off. This presents a pinching hazard and must be repaired. There is a multi-colored vinyl mat in the school age/preschool room that has tears with exposed foam. Once foam is exposed it cannot be properly supervised. This should be repaired or removed.

V. 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.

*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.