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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Lawson Elementary **Enrollment:** 104 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42079

Street: 5450 NW 62nd Ave **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: PO Box 10, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Steve Conlan **Phone Number:** 515-252-8490

On-Site Supervisor(s): Joshua Schumaker **E-Mail:** sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 02-14-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-23-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-04-2023

Comments : 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: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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	0	0	0	210	210
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-15-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 2/14/24. The director and on-site supervisor were both present throughout this 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, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Kids Connection Lawson Elementary is one of five Kids Connection programs. Children who attend this school attend this program. The program is open year round. During the school year, children can attend 6:30 am - 8:30 am and/or 3:35 pm - 6:00 pm. During the summer months and no school days, children attend 6:30 am -6:00 pm. During the summer months children are separated according to the grade, rather than the school they attend. The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teachings.

Steve Conlan is the director of this program and the other four Kids Connection programs. Steve has a BS degree in Elementary Education and Specialized Social Studies. He has worked for Kids Connection for a number of years. Joshua Schumaker is the on-site supervisor as of January of 2018. Joshua has been with this program since 2008 and meets the requirements to be on-site supervisor.

This program uses primarily the gym and the cafeteria, but they also have access to the music room and art room if needed as well as the outdoor playground area.

During the visit, children were divided up between the cafeteria and outside playground. On the playground, staff were spaced out among the different groups of playing children. In the cafeteria, children were observed coloring, playing board games, and doing homework.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Walkie-talkies are used by staff to communicate with each other. There is also a staff "greeter" by the main parent board for children coming and going.

Staff members are wearing center shirts that make them more easily identifiable. Staff pictures and bios are also posted by the main parent board.

This center is one of five Kids Connection centers in Johnston. All five centers have the same director, policies, handbooks, etc. There is continuity among all five programs.

The center has a website through the school district.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

The director of these five programs has quarterly meetings with directors of other school district before and after school programs. In addition, on-site supervisors of these five programs meet with the director for meetings every other week. Then individual centers have all staff meetings several times throughout the year.

A monthly newsletter is sent to parents.

Children have a wide variety of activities to choose from including games that focus on logic and strategy. The center has clubs that meet on different days of the week to learn new things, such as sign language, origami, dance, yoga, etc . The center incorporates games and activities that interest the older children as well as the younger children. The center has an idea board up to get ideas from the children for activities. Club themes change every month.

The Kids Connection programs take care of their employees which include, but are not limited to higher wages, potential opportunities for benefits, incentive programs, etc.

The Kids Connection programs have good community supports from other businesses, local colleges, etc. There is a partnership.

The Kids Connection programs have several staff that were once children in these programs themselves.

The on-site supervisor stated his staff work well together.

There is a good working relationship with other school personnel (school counselor, nurse, teachers, principal, district associates, etc.).

There is a specific COVID team in place in the district.

Enrollment remains steady.

Staff were observed checking ID's for visitors.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
For children coming inside from the playground to use the restroom, there needs to be better supervision by staff. Staff should walk the children inside and be outside the restroom area.

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
The time between lunch and PM snack needs to be altered just slightly.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because the program serves only school age children in a school building, they are exempt from environmental testing. However, they still do radon testing.

For field trips, the center contacts with the school to take a driver and a school bus.

I-Power and IQ4K were previously discussed with the director.

Hand washing signs should be posted by the restroom sinks (it was noted this area was recently remodeled).

*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.