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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Timber Ridge Elementary **Enrollment:** 114 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42080

Street: 7370 NW 54th 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): Megan Davis **E-Mail:** sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 02-17-2023

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:** 01-23-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-02-2020

Comments : Johnston/Grimes Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years for licensing.

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	300	300
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:** 02-20-2023

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 2/3/22. The director and new on-site supervisor were both present for 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 (monthly playground inspections were observed but the playground was not observed up close due to the large amount of snow cover on the ground), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Kids Connection Timber Ridge 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. 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. Megan Davis is the new on-site supervisor as of 8/2022. Megan has a BS degree as well as past experience working in child care.

This program uses primarily the gym, cafeteria, and playground, but they also have access to two music rooms (currently only use one music room). All areas are within close proximity of each other.

During the visit, children were in the gym and engaged in a large motor activity. Staff were spaced out and interacting with children and attending to their needs.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center provides a wide range of activities and opportunities for the children.

The center has a strong working relationship with the school and partners well with the school.

The staff work well together per the on-site supervisor.

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.

The center has a website through the school district.

Staff members go to the specific hallways of classrooms to get children and bring them to the gym/cafeteria/music room at

the end of the school day.

Staff pictures are posted near the main entrance.

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 monthly.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter.

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

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

The Kids Connection programs have several staff that were once children in these programs themselves. There is also a good mix of tenured and new staff.

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

The new on-site supervisor provides a fresh "lens" to the program.

Enrollment has increased within the past year.

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

109.5(1): Written policy notifying parents of unlimited access provisions.
If parents are not permitted to pick up children because of a court order, then the center needs to have a copy of that court order as well in the child's file.

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 times between meals cannot be less than two hours apart or more than three hours apart. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental tested as they are located within a school building and only serve school-age children. However, the center still does radon testing.

The center contracts with the school district to take a school bus driver and school bus for all field trips.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

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.