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

Name of Center: West Des Moines KinderCare **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51503

Street: 865 S 51st ST **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 865 S 51st ST, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: April Fewell **Phone Number:** 515-267-1951

On-Site Supervisor(s): Anna Crouse **E-Mail:** april.fewell@kindercare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-14-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 04-03-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-02-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections to be done at least every three years. The city of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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 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	24	38	48	27	137
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-15-2025

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 9/3/24. The director was present for the entire visit and the on-site supervisor for part of the 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.

West Des Moines Kindercare was given permission to open on 8/31/21. This is one of several Kindercare programs in the Des Moines area that is owned and operated by the nationwide corporation KinderCare Education. This center is in a stand alone building that serves children six weeks in age through five years of age using the Kindercare Learning Curriculum. There are a total of 10 classrooms, but currently only five, sometimes six are in use.

The district manager of this center is Rachel Ross. The director of this center is April Fewell as of 7/2023. April has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care which includes time as a director at another program. Anna Crouse is the new on-site supervisor. Anna has past experience and training to meet requirements for on-site supervisor.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, being held while bottle fed, washing hands, coming in from the outdoor playground area, and sitting down for lunch. Children and staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

All Kindercare centers are supported by Kindercare corporate.

Staff are eligible for benefits.

Classrooms were well furnished with age-appropriate equipment

The center receives their food menu and weekly lesson planning from the corporate office.

The director has past experience working in child care which includes experience as a director.

Monthly staff meetings are held at this location.

There is a monthly cultural theme posted each month at the front entrance.

The center employs a full-time cook.

The center uses the Kindercare online app for daily sheets and other communication with parents.

The director of this program and other Des Moines area Kindercare directors meet weekly for meetings.

Staff pictures and bios are posted outside classrooms.

There is a staff "shout out" board recognizing good work.

There is a lot of natural light in classrooms.

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

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
One child was missing a current physical in their file.

109.10(7): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are :In the center. In the outdoor play area. On field trips (away from the center).
Several first-aid kits observed were not labeled.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
The field turf is still not sufficiently secured to the ground in one area. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 4/8/24 - 4/11/24. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual HVAC inspection was last completed on 9/11/24.

The carbon monoxide detector is built into the building/system per the building maintenance person for the center.

The center does not transport children and they do not go on field trips. The center will bring different agencies into the center for presentations to children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I-Power profiles and be uploading annual training certificates into their profiles. The center has not yet decided on participating in IQ4K.

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.