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

Name of Center: Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc **Enrollment:** 125 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19260

Street: 404 N Pine St **City:** West Union Iowa **Zip** 52175 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: PO Box 1, West Union, IA, 52175

Director's Name: Mary O'Kones **Phone Number:** 563-422-5379

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hunter Berg **E-Mail:** kkcc.office@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-16-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-16-2021

Comments : Compliance on 01/05/22.

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: 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	17	24	48	30	119
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-16-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/16/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Inc. in West Union. I met with Mary O'Kones, the director. Ms. O'Kones has a BA in psychology and she is a NAEYC member. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). Hunter Berg is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher in the three-year-old preschool room. He has an early childhood diploma and a paraeducator certificate. Mr. Berg is in charge when Ms. O'Kones is away from the center. There are currently 26 staff members employed by the center.

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center originally opened August 8th, 2007, in the United Methodist Church in West Union. They started in their new location 01/05/15. The center is a community non-profit program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are infants through school-age. It offers a three-year-old preschool program during the school year that operates on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. There are currently 125 children enrolled.

The program utilizes the following classrooms: infant room (six weeks through eighteen months old), toddler room (eighteen months through two-years-old), a preschool room for three and four-year-olds and a school-age room. The four/five-year-old children meet in either the preschool room or the school-age room. The program also has access to an additional room in the center during the summer that is used by Hippity Hop Preschool during the school year. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler room and three-year-old preschool room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, woodworking, 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. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool program uses the Creative Curriculum, Heggerty for phonemic awareness, Jolly Phonics and other resources. Assessments are completed in the fall and spring in the preschool room. Activities are planned around weekly themes. Each teacher is responsible for developing their own lesson plans. The preschool program participates in the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). Lesson plans were available for review in each room. The center receives educational materials from Keystone AEA.

The preschool room has the librarian visit the program twice each month, someone visits once each month to do yoga with the children, Gilbertson Nature Center visits once each month and the fire truck recently visited the program.

Mats are used to nap in the preschool room. Cots are used to nap in the toddler room. Cribs and cots are used to nap in the infant room.

The rooms are creatively decorated and it is obvious the staff members put a lot of thought and time into their rooms. In the

toddler room there is a Disney theme and several cow pictures. In the preschool room there is a literacy theme. There are several books positioned all through the room and there is a stuffed animal of the main character next to the book. The rooms were also decorated for the season and for Halloween.

The program uses utilizes the HiMama app in the infant, toddler and three-year-old PreK classrooms to provide daily reports to parents and to reduce paper/copying costs. The program also uses this app as their medication authorization forms. Medications are documented with the type of medicated product, the time and the initials of the worker. The program can access past med sheets if necessary.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. The diagram near the primary door in the school-age room fell. Please re-post it. 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 June 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway outside of the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/16/21, with compliance on 01/05/22.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Kari Hackley is the cook, but her last day at the center is 10/20/23. Karen Baumler has been hired as the new cook and she is training with Ms. Hackley this week. The center serves breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. A new menu is prepared each month. The children eat in their rooms. Family style is not used. The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is one refrigerator, two upright freezers, two chest freezers and a milk cooler. Thermometers were present. There is a refrigerator in the storage closet in the toddler room and a thermometer was present. There are two dishwashers available to wash dishes. There are also five sinks in the kitchen; three of the sinks are for dishwashing and two sinks are for food prep. Food items in the pantry and kitchen were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus and allergies were posted.

The parents provide formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. All bottles, cups and bowls are returned to the kitchen for washing and sanitation. There are two refrigerators and a freezer in the infant room and thermometers were present. The infant room has feeding schedules posted for each child.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and they use Oxivir Tb to disinfect the diaper changing tables. I discussed and observed diaper changes in the rooms and proper procedures are followed. In the infant room there is one handwashing sink and one food prep sink and there are two diaper changing tables. In the toddler room there are two sinks in the classroom, two diaper changing tables and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. In the preschool and school-age rooms there are two sinks in the room and two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted where necessary. There are timers in the rooms with the diaper changing tables so that the disinfectant sits on the tables for the mandated dwell time.

There are two large fenced in playgrounds behind the center. Woodchips are used for fall surface cushioning in both locations.

The area for children ages two through five-years-old has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a tunnel and a climbing wall. There is a small sandbox, playhouses, picnic tables and dramatic play equipment. There is also a grassy area and a tree provides shade. There is a storage shed in the area.

In the preschool area there is a Tot Tree that the infant and toddler rooms can use. Staff members provide careful supervision to keep children off the climbing equipment, but they can play on the grass.

The area for the school-aged children has climbing equipment with multiple slides, a climbing wall and several other climbing activities. There is a large grassy area for the children. There is a sandbox, sensory table and picnic tables. There is a shed and containers in the area with additional activities. Ms. O'Kones states they often take the older children to local parks.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance near the office. 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. There are parent resources in the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. In the toddler room the staff members took the children on a walk outside. In the preschool room and infant room, the staff members were on the floor actively playing and introducing the children to activities. The infant room staff members had children on their laps. They were reading a group of children a book and making it entertaining by make animal sounds. They were working on tummy time and sitting up. They were nurturing and attentive. Soothing music was playing on the side of the room where infants nap. In the preschool

room they encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They encouraged the children to do things on their own but helped when necessary. Staff members seem to have a good routine and work well together. Staff members provided the children with praise. Staff members provided a fun learning environment and the children appeared to enjoy themselves.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. O'Kones states they have a cohesive group of staff members who work well together.

Ms. O'Kones states their lead teachers do well with lesson planning. They keep their rooms organized and they take pride in how they decorate their rooms.

Ms. O'Kones states the center has retained quality staff members for lengthy periods of time.

Ms. O'Kones states parents are satisfied with the care their children receive according to the "satisfaction survey" they do every spring.

Ms. O'Kones states they have increased staff wages for lead teachers, people who have more than five years of experience and staff members who go above and beyond at work.

Ms. O'Kones states they have a good relationship with Hippity Hop Preschool, who rent a room in the center. The teachers in Hippity Hop even sub for them during the summer months if they need help. The center uses the preschool room during the summer months.

The program is in a secured building and there are security cameras in the entrances and outside of the building.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance and outside of each of the doors where they work.

The center continues to have steady enrollment.

The center continues to offer a summer program for school-age children with regularly scheduled field trips, guest visitors and activities.

The infant room is staffed at a lower 1:3 ratio to provide a better environment for staff and children.

The center continues to partner with North Fayette Valley Elementary School, NICC and Upper Iowa University to provide observations, practicum and field experiences for students pursuing degrees in Early Childhood or Elementary Education.

Ms. O'Kones is NAC certified and a member of NAEYC.

The center utilizes HiMama program in the infant, toddler, three-year-old PreK and four-year-old PreK classrooms to provide daily reports to families while minimizing paper/copying costs.

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

N/A

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.