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

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Lawson Elementary **Enrollment:** 103 **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: 02-05-2025

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:** 01-28-2025

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 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-07-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 2/5/25. The director, the director's supervisor, and on-site supervisor were 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 (monthly playground inspections were reviewed, the actual playground was not in full because of the weather), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

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 the gym. In the cafeteria, children were spaced out and sitting at different tables. One group of children was observed doing art work with markers, scissors, and glue and making a campground. Staff were spaced out among the different groups of children. In the gym, children were engaged in a game of dodgeball facilitated by staff. One staff was observed in the hallway between the gym and restrooms for children that needed to use the restroom.

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 wear center shirts and sweatshirts 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 also a Facebook page.

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 and staff 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.).

Enrollment remains steady.

Staff files and children files were nicely organized at all five locations.

Staff were observed checking ID's for visitors.

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

No below standards were identified at this year's inspection visit.

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 was again discussed at the visit. Staff will need to be entering their training hours/certificates into their profiles.

It was noted that the on-site supervisor was working with IT in regards to adjusting the electronic board where the required postings are located. This consultant's information as well as the Mandatory Reporter posting need to be adjusted so that they are not blurry.

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.