Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kountry Kids Child Care

Provider No.: 50778

Address: 200 12th Street, Harlan, IA, 51537

County: Shelby

Director's Name: Mindy Gordon

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122352411

E-Mail: kountrykids@fmctc.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/18/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/19/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	10	15	37	30	92
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was made to Kountry Kids Child Care on 9/18/25. The center is run by a board and opened under the new name/ownership on October 1, 2019. Mindy Gordon became the director on January 3, 2024. She worked at Kountry Kids Child Care for one year until she became eligible to become the director. She has prior experience working as a director at a facility for special needs individuals. The center offers child care services to infants to school age children Monday through Friday 5:45 AM to 6:00 PM. There are 70 children enrolled in the center. I met with Mindy during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The infant room is for children from six weeks to a little over one year old. There were six kids and two staff. There was a baby sleeping in a bouncer. I informed them that babies cannot sleep in bouncers. They need to be in a crib on their back. I discussed safe sleep with the staff. Staff were also thawing breastmilk in a bowl of water after it had been microwaved. This is not recommended. Please follow the directions provided by the Child Care Nurse Consultant. The room was bright and had a variety of toys for age and development. The daily sheets looked good. The toddler room is for one- to two-year-old children. There were seven kids and two staff. There is one child who is over two years old, but has developmental delays so needs to be in the younger room. I instructed them to get permission from a doctor and HHS for this child to remain in the one- to two-year-old room. The room was bright with a variety of toys. The two-year-old room had four kids and one staff member. The lesson plans are in a book and on Brightwheel. The theme this month is pets and family. The room had centers and the kids were enjoying themselves playing. The preschool room is for three- and four-year-old children. There were nine kids and two staff. The room is split up into activity centers. They had a daily schedule and lesson plans posted. There is a school age room for children between six and 11 years old. There are a variety of games and art projects for the children. The school age children were at school during my licensing visit. The children's artwork was displayed on the walls throughout the center. Daily schedules and lesson plans need to be displayed in every programming room. Purell is used for sanitizing and disinfecting. It is premixed. All rooms rotate toys regularly. All toys are sanitized daily. The center uses Experience Curriculum. The Brightwheel child care app is used. All of the staff were interactive and attentive to the children's needs.

Nutrition:
The center employs a cook who prepares breakfast and snacks. She is with Shelby County Clubhouse who caters lunch, snacks, and hot breakfasts which are twice a week. The center provides the breakfast if it is cold the other three days a week. The center participates in the federal food program. Menus were posted. Appropriate food storage was observed. All dishes are handwashed and then put in a dishwasher/sanitizer.

Health and safety:
Fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented. Radon testing was last done in 2023. The results were in the acceptable

range. Radon testing is required every five years if the test results are under a 4.0 pCi/L. Staff reported proper medication management procedures are practiced when a child is prescribed medication. Diapering and handwashing procedures were posted in every room. The center uses Purell for sanitizing and disinfecting. Please make sure to follow the correct sanitizing and disinfecting procedures and use the three-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water, you must follow the mixing instructions on the specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting as they are mixed at different strengths. Bleach/water must be mixed daily. You can discuss other product options for sanitizing and disinfecting with your child care nurse consultant. The center has small first aid kits in every room; however, they need a master first aid kit for the entire center that is stocked properly. A list of what is required for the master first aid kit can be located in Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures. Sheets are washed weekly.

Playground:
The center has a very nice outdoor play area. The center installed a new fence around the entire outdoor play area in the fall of 2023. Monthly playground safety inspections were completed in 2024. Mindy said she knew she had done inspections this year but couldn't find the checklist. Please begin completing and documenting the monthly playground inspections. You can state on the playground safety inspection if you are not using the playground due to inclement weather. The playground for older children has a climbing structure. There is also a sandbox, riding toys for the riding track, and an open grassy area to play games. The center uses turf and rubber tiles for fall surfacing. They are going to pull up the tiles, power wash them, then replace them.

Transportation:
The school bus provides transportation for the preschool age children. The center has a fifteen-passenger van. The center provides transportation to school for school age children in the morning. The van is used for field trips. Vehicle maintenance has not been documented. Please keep all documentation regarding any vehicle maintenance that occurs.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were read. Two were missing first aid/CPR training, one was missing the federal background check, and two were missing current physical exams. Seven children's files were read. None had an annual permission for as to who is allowed to pick up the child. One of the children did not have a doctor or dentist listed nor did he have a physical exam. The center has an active board that meets monthly. I recommend that you have staff meetings on a regular basis. Mindy reported she works with Child Care Resource and Referral regularly. She will contact them to assist her in getting her files in order and all of the staff training is current.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Your center is an excellent resource for the community. Mindy Gordon became the director in January 2024. She is very excited to be the director. She is enthusiastic about the program. Pam Klinkenfus (previous director) is very committed to the center as needed. The center would like to apply for IQ4K. The center receives grants. The center installed a new fence around the entire outdoor play area in the fall of 2023 and they would like to make other playground improvements. The center would like to remodel so they can add additional space for the school age program. All of the staff were interactive and attentive to the children's needs. Mindy is receptive to training for her staff to address the areas that fall below standards.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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). The center needs a master first aid kit.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Monthly inspections needs to be conducted and documented.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents. Curriculum/lesson plans need to be prepared and posted in every room.

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109.12(4)a: A safe and properly equipped area is provided for infants that does not allow for intrusion by children over two years of age. Children over age two who remain in the infant area are placed at the recommendation of a physician or AEA due to a significant developmental delay. Children are placed for a limited time with HHS approval if doing so does not pose a threat to the infants. There is a child over the age of two years old that is in the room with one- to two-year-old children. The center needs to receive a physician's recommendation and approval from HHS.

109.12(4)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their backs for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child shall be allowed to sleep in any item not designed for infant sleeping, including but not limited to an infant seat, car seat, swing, or bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required and an expiration date. A baby was observed sleeping in a bouncy sheet. Please make sure safe sleep procedures are followed.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 10/1/25 to 10/1/27.

I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to work with the staff on safe sleep due to the baby sleeping in the bouncer. The Child Care Nurse Consultant also made recommendations on how to thaw frozen breastmilk. The Child Care Nurse Consultant said Mindy is receptive to training to address both of these issues.

Date: 09/30/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.