Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Lawson Elementary

Provider No.: 42079

Address: 5450 NW 62nd Ave, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Steve Conlan

On-Site Supervisor: Joshua Schumaker

Phone Number: 5152528490

E-Mail: sconlan@johnston.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 02/06/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 09/05/2025

Comments: Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

**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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| HOURS: | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Tuesday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Thursday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Friday | 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 0 | 0 | 0 | 210 | 210 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An off-year inspection was conducted on 2/6/26. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present for this inspection.

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 their 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.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

During the inspection, children were divided up between the gym, cafeteria, and music room. In the gym, children were engaged in a large motor activity (Dodgeball) that was being facilitated by staff. In the cafeteria, children were sitting at the cafeteria tables and doing/playing with different learning stations made available to them. Staff were again spaced out and interacting with children. In the music room, children were observed reading books. Ratios were being followed. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

NUTRITION: The school provides lunch to children during the school year. The school also provides breakfast year-round to children. The center always provides the PM snack. During the summer months and no school days, children are required to bring in their own lunches.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: For field trips, the center contacts with the school to take a driver and a school bus. A first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along for all field trips.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is very large and has ample shade provided by trees. There are swings and other climbing structures as well as a large grassy area for children to use.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

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, sweatshirts, and/or badges 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. There is also at least one staff member who is a student and on the school board as a student representative.

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.).

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Enrollment remains steady.

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

Staff were observed checking ID's for visitors.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

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

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

N/A.

**5. 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.

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

The child care nurse (CCNC) map was emailed to the center director after the inspection.

Date: 02/09/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.