Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids Connection-Horizon Elementary

Provider No.: 42076

Address: 5905 NW 100th St, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Steven Conlan

On-Site Supervisor: Brenda Schumaker

Phone Number: 5152528490

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

HHS Visit Date: 02/04/2026

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

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 09/12/2025

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

**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 | 287 | 287 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An off-year inspection was conducted on 2/4/26. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present throughout 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.

Kids Connection Horizon 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. The program uses their own learning curriculum in their teachings. During the summer months, children are separated according to their grade and attend the school designated for their grade, rather than the school that they attend.

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. Brenda Schumaker is the on-site supervisor at this location. Brenda has an AA degree and has many years' worth of experience working in child care/school-age programs. Brenda has been in this position for 15 plus years.

This program uses primarily the gym and the cafeteria, but they also have access to the music room and computer 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 and the cafeteria. In the gym, children were engaged in a large motor game playing a version of kickball. Staff were facilitating this game and supervising children. In the cafeteria, children were further divided up and sitting/playing at the cafeteria tables. Children were observed doing art projects, playing with dramatic play toys, and playing board games. Staff were again spaced out and interacting with children.

NUTRITION: The school provides lunches to children year-round. During the school year, the school also provides breakfast to children. During the school year, the center provides the PM snack. During the summer months, the center provides the AM and PM snacks.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contacts with the school district for a school bus and driver for all field trips. Field trips are mostly taken during the summer months although may also be taken during holiday breaks.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is very large and has swings, climbing structures, and other items children play with. There is also a garden area. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

**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 and who also monitors attendance.

Staff members are wear center shirts/sweatshirts/badges that make them more easily identifiable. Staff pictures 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. so there is continuity. The centers can share staff as needed.

The center has a website through the school district. The program also has a Facebook page.

Homework time is made available for children.

The center provides children with a wide variety of activities including Spanish classes, classroom helper, STEM, child behavioral incentives, sign language, and yoga. The center incorporates theme weeks during the summer months. Children are allowed to provide feedback on which activities they would like to help plan.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff.

The director and on-site supervisor have a strong working relationship with the school and school personnel. The on-site supervisor works well with the school counselor to ensure there is consistency and support for children who present with some behavioral challenges.

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. Good work or work that goes above and beyond is recognized.

The Kids Connection programs have good community supports from other businesses, local colleges, etc. There is a partnership with these businesses.

The Kids Connection programs have several staff that were once children in these programs themselves.

The director meets quarterly with other directors in the metro suburbs. All Kids Connection on-site supervisors have meetings with each other every other week. Monthly staff meetings are held with staff at this center.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

One child was missing dentist information. The name of the dentist, address, and phone number is required.

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

N/A.

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located within a school and only serve school-age children. The center, however, does radon testing through the school.

I-Power was again discussed. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles. Training hours/certificates also need to be consistently uploaded to profiles. Any staff no longer with the program should be removed.

Date: 02/06/2026

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**.