Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Madison Elementary School

Provider No.: 51881

Address: 1341 Woodside DR NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52405

County: Linn

Director's Name: Paul Pressler

On-Site Supervisor: Faith Gerot

Phone Number: 3195120563

E-Mail: paul.pressler@discoverchampions.com ssous@discoverchampions.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/12/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/02/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation

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				50	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. was founded in 1969 and has grown to become one of the largest providers of childcare in the United States. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. is currently primarily owned by Partners Group a Swiss private equity firm as well as other shareholders and investors. KCE Champions LLC is a division of KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. and included as a core brand along with KinderCare Learning Centers and The Creme School. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to KCE Champions LLC @ Madison Elementary School which commenced operations on 8/22/2022. This location includes childcare for school-age children outside of school hours including the option to provide full days of childcare on no school days and extended school breaks including winter, spring and summer breaks. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 32 on 2/12/2026.

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. has a regional manager named Setara Sous. Ms. Sous has a BA in criminology, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training. Ms. Sous qualified for an Iowa director role in January 2024. KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. has an area manager named Paul Pressler. Mr. Pressler qualified for the Iowa licensed childcare director role fall of 2023. Mr. Pressler has a MA degree in educational leadership, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training. Mr. Pressler is not only the director of this specific KCE Champions LLC location as he is also the director of several other Iowa locations. As a result, this location is required to have at least one Iowa qualified on-site supervisor (OSS). Faith Gerot has been in the Iowa qualified OSS role for this location since August 2024, has experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 2/12/2026, program space was observed. Since the last review and as of 2/23/2026, primary programming space has changed to include the school cafeteria with the school stage only being used to hold program materials. The program has

some access to the school gymnasium and outdoor school play areas. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. All foods offered to the childcare children are stored and prepared by the Cedar Rapids Community School District in the on-site school kitchen. On 2/12/2026, activities observed included afterschool gathering and tabletop events (e.g. modeling clay, free crafting, building mechanisms, book reading, games). Evidence of previous days' curriculum was found to include very clever projects were happening (e.g. "Donut You Know that We Love Our Champions A-Latte" display, handmade Valentines). Very noteworthy lesson plans or plan of activities was posted! Several children were overheard asking staff about the upcoming Valentine's Day festivities (e.g. Is it going to be like last year's? The party was so fun last year."). Children were then observed squealing with delight as staff explained there would be dancing, carnival type games and treats. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation, good sportsmanship, the use of social graces and child choice. On 2/12/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and engaged in programming with the children. Routine transitions including afternoon snack rituals, restroom breaks, and face-to-name checks were also observed. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying their childcare experiences.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

According to the family and employee handbook, the philosophy of KCE Champions LCC is that "...learning is meant to be a natural, joyful experience. Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Children thrive when the process of discovery is lovingly encouraged and gently reinforced..."

KCE Champions LLC @ Madison Elementary School has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/champions/.

As of 2/12/2026, KCE Champions LLC programs remain for profit and operate under a board of directors having several Chief Operators including ones specific to operations, finance, curriculum and branding. The local management team (e.g. Ms. Sous, Mr. Pressler, Ms. Gerot) remains seasoned and consistent. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures.

On 2/12/2026, KCE Champions LLC @ Madison Elementary School was found to have an area for required postings as well as other information. Curriculum continues to focus on six content areas that research shows enhance children’s growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in school and beyond: Character Development, Community, Creative Expression, Executive Function, Inquiry-Based Learning, and Literacy. The program provides child interest areas in creative arts, literacy, math and construction, puzzles and games, and science. Daily fitness, healthy eating, and homework assistance (as needed) are part of the program’s operations. Extended school-summer break curriculum continues to be enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips.

KCE Champions LLC continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On 2/12/2026, Ms. Gerot acknowledged how their team of staff continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their policies and procedures. Ms. Gerot also acknowledged having support from KCE Champions LLC board, KCE Champions LLC executive management personnel, Cognia accreditation, and the school (e.g. executive school district personnel, school board, school kitchen staff, school administration, school maintenance, school custodial team) as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs. School kitchen is inspected by the local health department. There is an AED on-site.

KCE Champions LLC locations including this specific location have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through air quality alerts (2023, 2025), repeated expansion and acquisition events, and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(1): The program room size shall have the following minimum square feet:35 square feet of usable floor space per child.Rooms with cribs have 40 square feet of space per child.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so

as not to result in injury to the children.

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

109.11(1): The program room size shall have the following minimum square feet:35 square feet of usable floor space per child.
109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
- On 2/12/2026, licensing observed this program's primary licensed space had dramatically changed since the start of 2025-2026 school-year. On 2/23/2026, licensing received and reviewed documentation verifying KCE Champions LLC @ Madison will begin again to have full access to the school cafeteria during all hours of program operation. The school stage with at least a 3-foot drop will only be used for program storage. Due to primary licensed space changes, total capacity for this location has decreased to 50.
- On 2/12/2026, licensing observed stacked gym mats and large garbage cans filled with school materials to be stacked higher than the school gymnasium's secondary exit door. These materials also partially blocked the secondary school gym exit door. On 2/23/206, documentation indicated resolution was underway. The KCE Champions LLC @ Madison Elementary School childcare program understands they are not to use the school gymnasium until the hazards are fully remedied.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the school gymnasium and outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the school gymnasium and/or outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 02/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.