

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

Name of Center: KCE Champions LLC @ Nixon Elementary School **Enrollment:** 43 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51883

Street: 200 Nixon DR **City:** Hiawatha **Iowa Zip** 52233 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO Box 171, Palo, IA, 52324

Director's Name: Bethany "Bree" Hogue **Phone Number:** 319-432-3608

On-Site Supervisor(s): Matthew Mayfield **E-Mail:** Bree.Hogue@discoverchampions.com
SSous@discoverchampions.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-20-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X NA

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X NA **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** NA **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** NA

Date Inspected: 10-28-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other 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:	<u>Year-round</u>		<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>	
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				139	139
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 08-23-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 10-03-2023

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

Not applicable. This site commenced operations on 8/23/2022.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

KCE Champions LLC operates multiple school-age childcare programs within the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Specifically, KCE Champions LLC @ Nixon Elementary School is located inside Elementary School which is part of the Cedar Rapids Community School District. The program primarily operates Monday through Friday before and after school hours 6:30am to 6:00pm. KCE Champions does have the ability to extend hours on scheduled early release days, emergency late start days, and emergency early-out days. During the summer, full days of emergency closing (example snow day), and some breaks (holiday and spring), this site has the ability to operate full days and/or combine for full days of care at another KCE Champions LLC location. KCE Champions LLC @ Nixon Community School serves only school-age children. Current enrollment is 43.

Multi-site director Bethany "Bree" Hogue is completing an AA degree in early childhood education, has over 14 years of experience working in children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Mathew Mayfield. Mr. Mayfield has been with the program since it commenced operations fall 2023. Mr. Mayfield has a BA degree in an unrelated field, experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/20/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

KCE Champions LLC @ Nixon Elementary School is located inside an elementary school in a predominantly urban neighborhood. The profit program provides a variety of early learning and childcare opportunities as well as accepts many different of funding sources to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community.

KCE Champions LLC @ Nixon 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/>.

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 LCC is a division of KinderCare Education. The history of how KCE Champions LLC came to fruition and evolved to present day (including 1969 KinderCare Learning Centers founded, 1998 corporate headquarters moved from Montgomery Alabama to present-day Portland Oregon, 2003 KCE Champions LLC joins KinderCare Education, 2013 KinderCare launches its Early Foundations proprietary curriculum) is impressive. KinderCare Education serves more than 186,000 children in 40 states, and Champions specifically serves more than 40,000 of those children in 21 states and Washington, D.C. Champions partners with principals, teachers, and parents to create more than 600 before- and after-school and year-round learning environments.

In 2021, KinderCare Education earned a fifth Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award - one of only four companies

worldwide to receive this award five years in a row. Champions has made a continuous commitment to earn and re-earn Corporate Accreditation from Cognia a global leader in advancing excellence in education through accreditation.

Multi-site director Bethany "Bree" Hogue has been with the program since it commenced operations in fall 2022. Management continues to familiarize themselves with licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures. Mr. Mayfield has been the program's on-site supervisor since the program commenced operations in fall 2022. Mr. Mayfield discussed future goals related to enrollment. Since the last review, Mr. Mayfield discussed how program supplies have increased to peak child interest (e.g. old laptop).

KCE Champions LLC management discussed how they provide professional staff hiring and onboarding as well as holds regular staff meetings to review policies and procedures while offering support to staff. KCE Champions LLC management discussed how they have a great team of employees that are willing to travel to different sites and help out in various capacities as needed.

KCE Champions LLC has established and is working to maintain optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has a parent-staff/program information center, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. On 8/16/2023, KCE Champions LLC sponsored a "Champions Family Night" at Morgan Creek Park with food, face painting and more to welcome new and returning families to the upcoming school-year.

KCE Champions LLC school-age curriculum focuses on six content areas that research shows enhance school-age children's growth and development as well as help build the essential skills needed to be successful in elementary 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. There are additional opportunities offered for enrichment clubs and Junior Counselor leadership roles for older school-age students. Summer/extended breaks curriculum is also enhanced with guest speaker events and off-site field trips.

KCE Champions collaborates well with many community partners including the Cedar Rapids Community School District, Kids on Course, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. The school kitchen provides all food items for the childcare program. There is an AED onsite. Champions staff reported being appreciative of school personnel who have been very supportive.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has access to products for cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing. One staff was overheard encouraging good child hand washing prior to food service by saying "...that's how we try to fight germs..."

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff were also seen warmly greeting families as they arrived to pick up their children. The area of study included "Getting to Know You". While at the program, children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many and included after-school arrival/greeting, snack rituals, and self-selected play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up activities, food service) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed (e.g. staff overheard telling a child "...you're such a great helper and I like that...") and engaging children in much meaningful discussion.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

After properly preparing room #111, the program may begin using it for programming. Room #111 has a capacity of 17 children and licensing has a floor plan that includes this room. The program's total capacity of 139 will not change as the program's access to restrooms has not changed.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.