Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kidsville Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 19197

Address: 1009 First St W, Independence, IA, 50644

County: Buchanan

Director's Name: Kelly Walton

On-Site Supervisor: Ashley Hocken & Cyndi Jensen

Phone Number: 3193344286

E-Mail: kidsvilledirector@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/21/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/12/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] 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
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	36	18	55	36	145
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/21/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Kidsville Early Learning Center in Independence. I met with Kelly Walton, the director. Ms. Walton has a BA in marketing and advertising and a minor in communications/public relations. Ms. Walton has the National Administrator Credential (NAC). She has been with the program since February 2016. Ashley Hocken is the on-site supervisor and assistant director. Cyndi Jensen is an additional on-site supervisor. She is the lead teacher in the infant room and has been with the program since January 2007. The center has 40 employees.

Kidsville Early Learning Center is a non-profit program. It has been in operation since 1977 and in its current location since 1996. The center is located inside the Independence Community Schools Early Childhood Education Center and it is located on the Independence Community School grounds next to East Elementary School. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 180 children enrolled.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 04/30/27.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room (two weeks through 12-14 months), toddler room (12-14 months until 24 months), two-year-old room, three-year-old childcare room, three-year-old preschool room, four and five-year-old room and a school-age space. The center also has a four-year-old state voluntary preschool room, but this room is regulated through the Department of Education and not licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. The three-year-old preschool program operates Monday through Thursday and offers a morning class from 8:15-11:15 am and an afternoon class from 12:00-3:00 pm. Ashley Conklin is the teacher of the three-year-old preschool class. She has an AA in early childhood education. An inspection of each room was completed. All rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The toddler room cares for children who are twelve months old. On the day of my visit there were two yea old children in the classroom with children under the age of 18 months old. This cannot occur. Once a child tuns two they must be moved out of the classroom if there are children under the age of 18 months old.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children’s art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children’s birthdays were posted. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and some have pictures of the families. There is an area for circle time in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, puppets, writing, math, science/discovery, Play-Doh, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for

clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number were posted in all rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram near the outdoor exit in the three year old preschool classroom. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

The three-year-old preschool class primarily uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. Ms. Conklin completes the Brigance assessments on the children. The other rooms use the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources to develop lesson plans. A lesson plan was available for review in each room.

Daily sheets are being maintained in the infant and toddler rooms. The infant room uses paper copies of the form and the toddler room uses the Playground app to document the mandated areas. The entire center uses the Playground app to communicate with families and send them pictures of the children.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. Each room does their own playground inspections. The radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in the laundry area off the kitchen, the school-age space and the kitchenette of the infant room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/12/24.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Tori Jablinske and Katie Weber share cooking responsibilities. The center uses a five week rotation of menus. Menus and allergies were posted. Most children eat in their classrooms. The three-year-old preschool class eats in the dining area of the school-age space. Family style is being used in the two-year-old room depending on what is being served. The children three-years-old and older use family style.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The kitchen is inspected by the health department every six months. The center uses an industrial dishwasher for the dishes. The dishwasher is inspected and sanitized by Martin Brothers every month. There are also three industrial sized sinks to wash the dishes if necessary. There is an upright freezer, an industrial refrigerator and an industrial freezer. There were thermometers present. There is one handwashing sink and handwashing procedures were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room, the program offers one brand of formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. There is a kitchenette in the infant room. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. There is a food prep sink. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized at the end of the day.

The rooms use bleach and water to sanitize food tables. Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant is used to disinfect diaper changing tables. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures are posted in the mandated areas.

Cribs are used for naps in the infant room and cots are used in the rooms for the older children. There were loose fitting sheets in the cribs in the infant room. All cribs must have tight fitting sheets to comply with safe sleep practices. Owlets are being used in the infant room.

I observed diaper changes. A staff member in the infant room left the gloves on throughout the process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. I explained the correct process. Other staff members in the infant room did follow proper procedures. In the two year old classroom the staff member left the gloves on throughout the entire process, did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change and she wiped the disinfectant off the table immediately. The disinfectant must sit on the changing table for the product dwell time, which is two minutes. I did discuss this with the staff member and she did make the corrections on the following diaper changes.

In the two yea old room there were purses sitting on the counter. All personal items must be stored out of the reach of children.

Children have access to one of the four outdoor playgrounds depending on the child's age. There is an infant/toddler area, a

two-year-old area, a preschool area and school-age area. Each area has a grassy area.

The infant/toddler area has a concrete path and a grassy area. There is a shade shelter over the sandbox. There are riding toys, pushing toys, dramatic play equipment, small slides, a sensory table and a basketball hoop. Some of the slides have a height greater than 18 inches and require fall surfacing. These slides should be removed from this area.

In the two-year-old area rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing under a piece of climbing equipment that has slides. There is a sandbox covered by a shade shelter and a tree for shade. There is dramatic play equipment, playhouses and a bench for the children to rest. There is one slide that has a height greater than 18 inches and requires fall surfacing. You must move the slide over to the rubber tiles. There is a tunnel for the children to crawl through.

The preschool area has rubber tiles that are used for fall surfacing under a piece of climbing equipment that has a slide and other activities. There are half-tires for the children to crawl on or walk across. There is a concrete path for riding toys, a playhouse, dramatic play area, a music center and a pergola shade structure over a sandbox. There is a bench and picnic tables for the children to rest.

The school-age area has rubber tiles that are used for fall surfacing under a piece of climbing equipment that has slides and other activities. There are half-tires for the children to crawl on or walk across. There is a concrete path for riding toys, tunnels and a playhouse. There is a sandbox covered by a shade shelter. Trees also provide shade. There is a picnic table for the children to rest. There is a tether ball pole and basketball hoop.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There are several lead teachers that have longevity with the childcare program and the center has a strong administrative team. Staff members are good at communicating with one another in the classrooms and I observed great teamwork. Several classrooms took the children outside to enjoy the beautiful weather. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children and introduced them to activities. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations during play. Staff members modeled good manners and taught the children to use good manners. Child friendly music was playing in some of the rooms. Staff members were nurturing and I observed them holding children on their laps, rubbing children's backs and talking to them in a calming manner. Staff members provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 04/30/27.

Ms. Walton states they have consistent staff and the same leads in the classrooms.

Ms. Walton states they are at full capacity with children because they have a full group of staff members.

Ms. Walton states they have supportive parents.

Ms. Walton states they have a supportive Board.

Ms. Walton states the center is receiving more support from the community. They have businesses making donations and the center hangs banners on the playground fence to thank the businesses.

The program is in a secure building. The center has cameras in each room, in the playground areas and at the front door. They also installed "lock down" doors in all the rooms. The school has cameras on the outside of the building.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

The center has a Facebook page.

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The center added new rubber tiles to the two-year-old playground and the school age playground.

The school age children take field trips during the summer. They take a bigger one on Mondays and go to the pool on Tuesday and Thursday. A school bus provides transportation. The five and six year old children have water days at the center.

Ms. Walton is a terrific director and leader. She has great relationships with the staff members and steps in to help in rooms when necessary. Ms. Walton has also routinely assisted other centers in the surrounding areas.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
I observed diaper changes. A staff member in the infant room left the gloves on throughout the process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. I explained the correct process. Other staff members in the infant room did follow proper procedures. In the two year old classroom the staff member left the gloves on throughout the entire process, did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change and she wiped the disinfectant off the table immediately. The disinfectant must sit on the changing table for the product dwell time, which is two minutes. I did discuss this with the staff member and she did make the corrections on the following diaper changes. CORRECTED

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I met with Ms. Walton following my observation in the classrooms to discuss items that need to be addressed. Ms. Walton assured me these items would be corrected.

The program has multiple spots on the playground that have not been able to grow grass. This has been a problem with all the rain because when the children go outside the staff members must keep children away from these areas or they get muddy. The program would like to get sod for these areas.

Following my visit, I received an email from Ms. Walton informing me they found some water on the toddler floor and moisture in the wall. They currently have their Toddler room blocked off and tore up trying to determine where the issue is coming from. They have purchased multiple dehumidifiers that are being used in the classroom until the problem can be fixed.

I would recommend Ms. Walton to contact Lisa Wood from Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) to discuss applying for the Growing Iowa Program to help fund the above needs.

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Rebecca Frost

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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**.