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

Name of Center: Metro Kids - Cowles **Enrollment:** 76 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36554

Street: 6401 College Ave **City:** Windsor Heights Iowa **Zip** 50324 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2100 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA, 50321

Director's Name: Kelsi Stanley **Phone Number:** 515-242-7951

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sylvia Bright **E-Mail:** Kelsi.Stanley@dmschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-21-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-08-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-13-2023

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			26	150	176
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2026 to 01-01-2028
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 02-20-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Metro Kids - Cowles has been in operation for many years. The center provides before and after school child care for children attending this school. The school has a secured entrance. The center uses the cafeteria, library and gym for school age children. This program provides child care for children three to five years of age who attend preschool at Cowles. The preschool has their own child care room during the school day. The center uses the outdoor playground area also. Kelsi Stanley is the director of the Cowles site as well as several other Metro Kids sites. Sylvia Bright is the on site supervisor. Sylvia has a Bachelors degree in Social Services. Sylvia has been employed with Metro Kids since 2007.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance. A schedule/lesson plan was posted. The center sets out table activities, games and interest areas in the cafeteria.

Sylvia assisted with today's visit. During regular programming, the center has children divided into three groups during majority of programming time: Yellow (preschool), Red (younger children) and Blue (older children).
Today was a regional day for Des Moines Schools so the center was open all day. Children from Cowles, Hanawalt, Hubbell, Samuelson and Lovejoy were in attendance. There ere sixty four children present during the visit. Twelve staff were working. The kids were divided into two groups. The center was using the gym and cafeteria for program rooms today. Children were playing in the interest areas and playing various table activities in the cafeteria. Staff were supervising and playing games with the children.

The center provides snack during regular programming. During all day programming, the center provides morning and afternoon snacks. Children bring their own lunch. Menus were reviewed and showed compliance with CACFP.

The center uses the schools' playground areas. The playgrounds are maintained by school staff. The center completes monthly playground checks.

The Metro Kids Program uses school buses for off site field trips.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Metro Kids has been in operation for many years. The children have the opportunity for large motor play activities on a daily basis through the use of the playground and gym.

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

There were no licensing violations cited during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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An administrative change is being made to move the licenses for all Metro Kids locations to 1-1-2020 to 1-1-2022

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