Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: KinderCare Learning Center #292

Provider No.: 24356

Address: 5351 N Park PL NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

County: Linn

Director's Name: Laura Cook

On-Site Supervisor: Heather Cones, Rebecca Kappmeyer, Nadean Wilson

Phone Number: 3193778607

E-Mail: 300292@klcorp.com, lacook@kindercare.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/22/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/13/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: NAEYC accredited 10/02/2025 to 10/01/2030 NAEYC Program ID: 7962

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:

- [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	17	33	5	91
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. KinderCare licensed childcare centers are a division of KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. and included as a core brand along with KCE Champions LLC and The Creme School. Specifically, this license and inspection report pertains to KinderCare Learning Center #292 which is a profit center operating since May of 1979. KinderCare Learning Center #292 offers licensed childcare M-F 6:30am-6:00pm for children age birth through school-age. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 51 on 1/22/2026.

Regional Leader of KinderCare Learning Center #292 is Yohance Horne who is based in Oregon. District Leader of KinderCare Learning Center #292 is Rachel Ross who is based in Iowa. The specific Iowa qualified director of KinderCare Learning Center #29e is Laura Cook. Ms. Cook has been employed with KinderCare since 2011, has been in the director role since March of 2014, has a BA degree in elementary education, has a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) in Preschool, has experience working with children and participates in professional development. The specific Iowa qualified on-site supervisors (OSS) of KinderCare Learning Center #292 all have experience working with children and professional training.

On 1/22/2026, program space was observed. Since the last review, administrative office was updated, miniature terrariums were added, and "Care Cues" were established as reminders for staff meetings. Primary programming occurs in age defined classrooms. The building has sufficient restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate enrolled children. The center has an on-site kitchen and outdoor play area. The areas of study during the week of this license visit were "Healthy Bodies" and "Sky and Weather". Evidence of previous days' curriculum included clever Q-tip X-ray artwork display in the 3yo room!

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Curriculum on the day of the monitoring visit allowed for a variety of experiences (e.g. skilled crafts, sensory play, book reading, block building, imaginative play items) that piqued child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation and child choice. On 1/22/2026, staff were observed to be actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included infant cares, the center play experiences, small group work, lunch time rituals, and routine transitions. On the day of this monitoring visit, children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of this KinderCare is "…to provide programs and environments that enrich children's development, promote respect for children, and celebrate the joy of childhood".

KinderCare Learning Center #29s has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about the
https://www.kindercare.com/our-centers/cedar-rapids/ia/300292

As of 1/22/2026, the management team of KinderCare Learning Center #292 (e.g. Mr. Horne, Ms. Ross, Ms. Cooke, OSSs) continues efforts to create and maintain systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and secured in a confidential manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Local as well as national KinderCare sites continue to collaborate on the sharing of materials, curriculum, ideas/planning, and professional growth training. KinderCare Learning Center #292 also reports having additional supports from NAEYC accreditation and CACFP participation. The center chef reported being employed by the program for over 20 years and discussed how it's a joy to get to prepare for the children each day. Ms. Cook discussed having staff that participate in both the Wages and Teach programs. Ms. Cook also indicated a future goal includes possible IQ4K participation.

As of 1/22/2026, KinderCare Learning Center #292 was found to be maintaining the required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. The vestibule area was found to have refreshes and updated communications for families and visitors. Ms. Cook indicated she continues to look for ways to increase family communication including through online live "Coffee Chats" inviting anyone with questions and/or interest in KinderCare Learning Center #292 to participate. Curriculum continues to include a combination of learning strategies incorporating KinderCare's unique curriculum, teacher-created ideas, social emotional learning, early academics, assessments, and physical activity. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events, themed days, seasonal parties, and additional enrichments for those desiring such (e.g. cooking classes, seasonal crafts, music). Ms. Cook talked about results from recent family engagement surveys that indicated increased family satisfaction.

KinderCare Learning Center #292 continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily child contact, hand washing, diaper changing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff and management were able to verbalize how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. On 1/22/2026, management discussed how they have continued support from KinderCare executive management as well as a multi-site KinderCare maintenance-custodial person who is also responsible for daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. including KinderCare Learning Center #292 have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. KinderCare Learning Center #29s has successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), 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

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

Not applicable.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The position of the 2yo classroom's diapering station (staff with back to classroom) and enclosed child restroom (not visible to all areas of the classroom) is problematic to ensuring ratio and careful supervision when there is only 1 staff with a group of 7 or less 2yo children. Licensing and management discussed possible solutions. Remedy.

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

Date: 02/18/2026

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**.