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

Name of Center: Kids Corner Child Care & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 73 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19201

Street: 314 6th Street North **City:** Winthrop Iowa **Zip** 50682 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: PO Box 265, Winthrop, IA, 50682

Director's Name: Ashley Taylor **Phone Number:** 319-935-3434

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Taylor **E-Mail:** winthropkidscorner@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-07-2023

Comments : Compliance on 02/23/23

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	24	15	18	11	68
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-08-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 02/08/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Kids Corner Child Care & Learning Center in Winthrop. I met with Taylor Miller, the director. Ms. Miller has been employed with the center since September 2019 and became the director in March 2022. She has an AA in early childhood education. Faith Yates is the assistant director at the center. She started with the center in October 2021. The program employs twenty staff members.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. It is a non-profit program that has been in operation since 2005. The program operates 5:30 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. The program serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 73 children enrolled in the center.

The program operates out of the following rooms: infants (Itty Bitty Bloomers), a room for children approximately twelve months until two-years-old (Messy Monkeys), a room for children two and young three-years-old (Dancing Dolphins), a room for three and four-year-olds (Little Guppies) and they use the media room as the school age room before and after school. An inspection of each room was completed. 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 centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, listening, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, 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 were easily accessible to the children. In the school-age room you must secure the electrical cords for the television.

Each room has access to a bathroom. Each room has two sinks. Changing tables are in the rooms for the younger children. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks and diaper changing procedures were posted near all the diaper changing tables. I observed and discussed diaper changes with the staff members and procedures are being followed.

The center incorporates the Creative Curriculum in each room to develop lesson plans. They also use a variety of other resources. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans and activities are planned around themes. The length of the theme/unit depends on the topic and the children's interest level. Each room completes a newsletter. Lesson plans were available for review.

Daily sheets are provided to parents in each room to inform parents on how the child's day was through the Brightwheel app. Parents have loved receiving information this way. The app does not have a spot to document a child's mood. This is a mandated area for children under the age of two-years-old. You should document the children's mood under the notes section if there is not a specific area for mood.

I observed first-aid kits in each room.

There was a phone in each classroom and emergency phone numbers, including the centers address and phone number, were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in all rooms. In the one year old room you have two evacuation diagrams near the door to the outside. Post one of them by the door to the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

Cribs are used to nap for the infants and cots are used to nap for the older children. In the infant room there was a note from a doctor stating a child can sleep on their stomach with a blanket. No medical reason was given. This is not allowed. There is no medical reason for an infant to sleep with a blanket. There was no medical reason for the child to sleep on their stomach. If a doctor writes a note for a legitimate medical reason for safe sleep to be altered it is allowed. However, they must put an end date in the letter. It cannot be open ended. Additionally, just because a doctor writes a note, that does not mean licensing standards can be over-ruled without a medical reason.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in January 2024 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. Next time you must do a radon test in each room. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the kitchen. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/07/23, with compliance on 02/23/23.

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. Amy Ball is the primary cook. She uses a four-month rotation of menus. The program has a refrigerator, an upright freezer and a chest freezer. Thermometers were present. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher, and they have three industrial sinks to use for the three-step method for larger dishes. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. Meals are served family style for the older children.

The program makes homemade baby food for the infants. Parents provide formula. If parents want the center to provide the formula, they must pay a fee. The center provides the homemade baby food and cereal. Bottles are washed in the infant room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in the infant room. You must add a thermometer.

The program uses Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

The program has a large fenced in playground area that is divided into two spaces. The area for the older children has a larger piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities for the children. There is also a smaller piece of climbing equipment with slides for the two-year-olds. There is a tunnel, playhouses, rocking toys, pushing toys and a teeter totter. There are picnic tables for the children to rest. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. Trees are available for shade.

In the area for the one-year-old children there is a shade shelter. There were also rocking toys, pushing toys and a small slide. Trees are available for shade.

There is a slide on the grass in the larger playground area that has a fall height greater than 18 inches and requires fall surfacing. This cannot be used on the grass.

The parent information is in the entrance. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The program did not have the mandatory reporter posting, but this has since been corrected. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members were sitting on the floor with the children. They introduced them to activities and offered them choices. Child friendly music was playing in rooms. Staff members provided praise and used positive redirection when necessary. They maintained positive conversation and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They had great handwashing reminders for the children. Staff members were nurturing and held children on their laps. The children appeared to enjoy themselves at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 09/30/25.

Ms. Miller states they have made several improvements since my last licensing visit. She states they learn from experience.

Ms. Miller states their teachers are good at doing circle time with the children.

Ms. Yates states the staff members have improved at working together as a team.

Ms. Yates states that since she and Ms. Miller have taken over the administrative duties the morale of the staff members have improved. They have made small improvements over time.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Yates state they try to listen to concerns and follow through with trying to address them.

The program is in a secured building with cameras in each room.

Staff members receive a twenty percent discount for childcare while they are working. Extended family members of staff members may also receive the discount.

The toddler room serves as an inclement weather room.

The center is using the Brightwheel app. The Brightwheel app allows parents to sign their children in and out of the center, pay their bills and it is how staff members communicate with parents daily. The parents love the Brightwheel app. The Brightwheel app also has all the emergency contact information for the children.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

V. 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.

An administrative change is being made to name Ashley Taylor as the new director. She stated in this role in October 2024. She has been employed at the center since May 2022 and has several hours of related training. The email address has not changed.

*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.