Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Le Mars YMCA

Provider No.: 51415

Address: 241 12th ST SE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Krista Bolton

On-Site Supervisor: Molly Scott

Phone Number: 7125466655

E-Mail: kristan@lemarsymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 06/30/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/15/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			16	80	96
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at the YMCA Summer Day Camp and Afterschool Program on June 30, 2026, and met with Director Krista Bolton. Ms. Bolton holds an associate degree in recreational sports and has overseen the youth program at the LeMars YMCA for the past nine years. She has a total of 18 years of experience as a program director. Additional staff members include three elementary school teachers.

The LeMars YMCA provides both summer day camp and after-school care for children from preschool age through 5th grade. The after-school program is reviewed separately under a different license. The summer program operates across four designated rooms within the facility, one of which serves primarily as an overflow space and is used mainly as a game room. The LeMars YMCA offers a structured summer day camp during June, July, and August. Families may select specific weeks for their children to attend based on availability, with weekly enrollment permitted. Parents are encouraged to register early, and financial assistance is available for families who qualify.

I observed all areas of the center, including classrooms, activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, playground, and administrative review. There are 90 children enrolled in this program and 60 presents at the time of my visit.

The summer program is theme-based and incorporates a wide variety of engaging weekly activities. During the week of my visit, the children were participating in a “Traveling the World” theme. As part of this theme, the group visited Cugini’s Italian Restaurant, where staff provided information about Italian food and offered a meal. The children reported enjoying this activity. Staff do an excellent job of incorporating community partners into the programming they provide. Upcoming themes include a focus on solar power, with a local company scheduled to present and demonstrate how solar panels work.

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The program is also collaborating with the ISU Extension Office, which will offer a lesson on drones, allowing children to observe and experience this technology firsthand. In July, the children will take a field trip to the planetarium in Cherokee to learn about stars and constellations. Numerous additional field trips are planned throughout the summer that blend educational experiences with recreational activities.

Activities are planned and include both group-based learning opportunities and individual self-directed activities, allowing for a balanced mix of structured and free-choice play. Staff were observed facilitating and encouraging participation in various appropriate age activities.

The children bring their own lunches, which are stored in a refrigerator. The center provides an afternoon snack, and good food-storage practices were observed. The program follows CACFP nutritional guidelines. A first aid kit is available and adequately stocked to address minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. All program areas are well maintained and free of observable health or safety hazards. Radon testing has been completed, and results are within acceptable levels. Annual fuel burning inspection has been completed. Emergency preparedness plan is updated.

The center utilizes the YMCA facilities, participates in field trips, and visits local parks as part of its programming. When outdoor play is not possible, the large gym is used to ensure children have adequate space for physical activity. Transportation for field trips is arranged through the LeMars Community School.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The LeMars YMCA provides a well-organized and flexible program that offers valuable care for children throughout the year. The program's use of themed weeks and choice-based scheduling reflects a strong commitment to providing structured activities while also supporting family convenience.

The center benefits from strong community support and engagement, as many of the field trips involve visits to local businesses. Krista is a forward-thinking director who actively seeks new ideas and opportunities to provide children with meaningful learning experiences and enjoyable activities.

The program's current goal is to continue developing its adaptive camp offerings and to increase enrollment in these services.

Krista utilizes CCR&R services occasionally; however, I would encourage her to engage in more frequent and active consultation with CCR&R to further support program development.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Krista her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

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It is recommended to continue to work with CCRR for support. Please complete necessary training ASAP and provide documentation to this worker.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 07/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.