Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Gehlen Y Club

Provider No.: 52280

Address: 709 Plymouth ST SE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Krista Bolton

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7125464181

E-Mail: kristan@lemarsymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 12/16/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/20/2023

Comments: Please note that you will need a new fire inspection next year.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		3:30 PM 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				50	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit on 12/16/25 at this program where I was able to speak with staff as well as the Director Krista Bolton. The Gehlen Y Club, operated in partnership with the LeMars YMCA, provides a safe, structured, and enriching environment for school-age children during after-school hours. Led by Ms. Bolton, a dedicated youth program coordinator with an associate's degree in recreational sports and over eight years of experience managing youth programming at the LeMars YMCA, the program reflects a strong commitment to child development and community engagement.

Hosted within Gehlen Elementary School, the program utilizes the lunchroom and two classrooms to create a welcoming and functional space for learning and play. The Gehlen Y Club serves children who have completed Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 5th grade, offering care and activities Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The program is designed to complement the school day, providing a consistent routine and supportive environment for up to 50 children. Programming is suspended on days when Gehlen Elementary is closed due to inclement weather, ensuring alignment with school safety protocols and communication systems.

The Gehlen Y Club continues to be a valuable resource for working families, offering children opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and academic support in a familiar school setting. Ms. Bolton's leadership and experience contribute significantly to the program's stability and success, fostering positive relationships with both children and families.

There are 20 children enrolled at this program and 17 children present on the day that I completed the visit.

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All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of activity room, observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The program also incorporates a theme-based curriculum and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities to promote learning through hands-on exploration. During a recent observation, children were enthusiastically participating in a seasonal craft activity, making Santa masks—a clear example of how the program blends creativity with festive, age-appropriate learning experiences. Children have access to restrooms and are supervised in a safe, familiar school setting. The program's thoughtful design and Ms. Bolton's experienced leadership contribute to a positive, enriching environment that supports both academic and social development for school-age children.

The Gehlen Y Club also provides nutritious afternoon snacks, following CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) guidelines to ensure children receive healthy options. Sanitary procedures are consistently followed, and the program areas are well-maintained and free of observable health or safety hazards.
Health and safety protocols are clearly in place. Children have access to restrooms, and the center maintains a locked medication box for secure storage of any required medications. A fully stocked first aid kit is available to treat minor injuries, and fire and tornado drills are documented monthly to ensure preparedness. These measures reflect the program's commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all participants.

Children have access to the school's playground, which features woodchip surfacing around climbing equipment to support safety. A large grassy area is available for soccer, football, and running games, and a designated space for basketball provides additional opportunities for physical activity. Monthly playground inspections are completed to ensure equipment and play areas remain safe and well-maintained.

It is important to note that the program does not provide transportation or participate in field trips, keeping all activities on-site within the school grounds.

One of the program's ongoing goals is to increase enrollment. Significant progress has been made in this area, with enrollment doubling over the past year. This growth reflects the program's strong reputation, quality of care, and the increasing demand for after-school support in the community.

Another area of focus moving forward is improving the ease of online enrollment, which would help streamline access for families and support continued growth.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Th Gehlen Y Club continues to be a valuable resource for families in the community, offering children a positive, engaging, and developmentally appropriate after-school experience under the guidance of a skilled and caring staff.

Staff are actively involved with the students and their activities, fostering a positive and supportive environment. During a structured program observation, staff and children were seen engaging respectfully and enthusiastically. Children responded well to redirection and demonstrated an understanding of program rules and expectations, contributing to a calm and cooperative atmosphere.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Please ensure that school is providing you with their annual heating system report.

Please ensure Health Exam and directions for gluten allergy are onsite and, in the child's, files.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A referral has been made to CCRR for support.

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Please provide email to consultant on those items that are below standards have been corrected by 01/31/26.

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: 12/17/2025

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**.