Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA Childcare-Findley Elementary

Provider No.: 39516

Address: 3025 Oxford ST, Des Moines, IA, 50313

County: Polk

Director's Name: Lauren Slinker - Chaplin

On-Site Supervisor: Bailey Roberts

Phone Number: 5159758762

E-Mail: Lauren.Slinker@dmymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/04/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/07/2025

Comments: Des Moines Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years for HHS licensing requirements.

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	8:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	8:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	8:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	8:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	8:30 AM to 6:00 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				60	60
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 3/4/26. The director and the new on-site supervisor were both present throughout this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

YMCA Childcare - Findley Elementary opened in 2012. The majority of programming is held in the school's gym, cafeteria, and the outdoor playground area. The center serves school age children who attend this school. During the school year, the center operates after school from 2:30pm - 6:00pm. During the summer months, programming is 8:30am - 4:00pm. If there is no school, there is no programming during the school year. Current child enrollment at the time of the inspection was 68 children although not all of them are present at the same time.

The director of this program is Laura Slinker - Chaplin. Laura is also the director over several other YMCA programs. Laura as a Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working in child care and before/after school programs. The new on-site supervisor as of 1/2026 is Bailey Roberts. Bailey is currently pursuing a degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working in child care.

During the inspection, the younger children were inside and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. The older children were outside on the playground. In both areas, staff were spaced out among the different groups of children and interacting with them. Equipment inside is being cleaned and sanitized daily.

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NUTRITION: The center provides a PM snack to children through the Des Moines School District. During the summer months, the Des Moines School District provides the AM snack, lunch, and PM snack to children. The food menu observed met CACFP guidelines. Food is not kept on site.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school district to take a bus for field trips and/or they have a YMCA bus and driver. Field trips are only taken during the summer months. The center also sometimes brings in presenters for children.

PLAYGROUND: The center utilizes the school playground. This is a very large area and consists of a blacktop area, a large grassy area, and two areas for climbing structures. Rubber tiles are used for surfacing around climbing structures. There were some issues remaining still from last year in regards to bolts along the fence and gate areas being too long (more than two threads showing). Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

There is a lot of open space for the center to play outdoors.

The center has a good working relationship with other school personnel including the school nurse, school principal, and custodial staff.

Children are offered large motor play on a daily basis.

There are different agencies/programs both externally and internally that come into the center weekly to offer such things are tutoring, art, and things of that nature.

The director and on-site supervisor believe the program has a good working relationship with the families they serve.

The director and new on-site supervisor are both experienced working in child care. Both individuals also appear to be organized.

All YMCA programs that provide child care to children operate in a similar fashion.

There are weekly meetings between supervisors, directors, and on-site supervisors. Monthly all-staff meetings are also held.

There is a good system in place for tracking and monitoring children during field trips away from the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
ONE STAFF MEMBER HAS THE ABOVE CERTIFICATIONS NOW, BUT THEY WERE COMLETED PAST THE FIRST THREE-MONTH DEADLINE.

109.10(1): Medications: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.

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There was one expired epipen observed.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
1. Evacuation procedures were not posted in the gym.
2. Fire and tornado drills were not documented for June - August of 2025.

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

The director and on-site supervisor should get with the parent of the epipen right away to replace the expired epipen. The other below standards should be addressed prior to next year's inspection at the very latest.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental testing because they only serve school-age children and in a school building.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have profiles and training hours are being uploaded. Any staff no longer with the program should be unlinked from the center.

The bolts along the playground fence and gates should be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

In regards to handling difficult child behaviors, the director and on-site stated they have regular conversations with their staff. They encourage teamwork and short time-outs for staff to step away and recollect themselves as needed. The on-site supervisor stated she teaches staff that "Dysregulated adults cannot regulate a dysregulated child".

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

Date: 03/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.