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

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Poyner Elem **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46285

Street: 1138 Central Ave **City:** Evansdale Iowa **Zip** 50707 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 669 S Hackett Rd, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett & Bekah Stevens **Phone Number:** 319-233-3531

On-Site Supervisor(s): Joseph Espinosa **E-Mail:** BBennett@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-09-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **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: 02-12-2024

Comments : Compliance on 04/29/24

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	50	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/09/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Poyner Elementary in Evansdale. I met with Joseph Espinosa, the on-site supervisor. Mr. Espinosa is also the Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator at the Family YMCA of Black Hawk County. There are two staff members with the children in the morning and two staff members in the afternoon.

Brandon Bennett and Bekah Stevens are the co-directors. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Ms. Stevens is the director of the ELC program. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director, in Minnesota. Mr. Bennett is primarily in charge of the school age programs and Ms. Stevens primarily oversees the early learning center. Ms. Stevens has been employed with the YMCA since September 2020. She has a BA in Social Work and Spanish. Their offices are in the YMCA facility in Waterloo.

The program is in Poyner Elementary. They primarily operate out of the cafeteria area, but also utilize the school gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:40-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 37 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allow for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is available in the cafeteria and artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include art/crafts, library, blocks/Legos, games, transportation, table toys, Play-Doh and magnets. Centers are stored in a closet located in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon session. The program was in ratio. The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving.

The children primarily use two bathrooms located outside the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets. The boy's bathroom has two toilets and two urinals. There is a birdbath sink located outside of the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted.

Staff members have a cell phone. Emergency numbers are in the first-aid backpack. The backpack is always with staff members. Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria. The evacuation diagrams must be placed near all three exits out of the gym. They were posted by the door to the outside but must be posted near the other two also. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the last two years. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections for the last two years.

Radon testing, a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the program is exempt from environmental assessments as a before and after school program that serves only school-aged children and located in a public-school building. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/12/24, with compliance on

The YMCA offers an afternoon snack. A snack menu was posted. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program is not part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Snacks are provided by the YMCA/NE Iowa Food Bank. They are delivered to the program and were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. The program does not serve breakfast, but a table is cleaned and sanitized so children could eat breakfast if they bring it. There is a refrigerator on site and a thermometer was present. The children eat breakfast at school once they are released from the program.

The program uses Alpet D2 Surface Sanitizing Wipes to sanitize the food tables. This product has a ten second dwell time.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. There are three areas. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning under the climbing equipment for two areas and rubber mulch is used for the third area. There are climbing walls, slides, bars, rings, rocking toys, steppingstones, spinning toys, a balance beam, merry-go-rounds, tunnels and a see saw. There are also grassy areas and a basketball court with hoops. Benches are available for the children to rest. Shade is available.

There is a gym available when the children cannot go outside.

Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children in the cafeteria. They were playing games and engaged in positive conversation. They then moved to the gym for gross motor play. Staff members played dodge ball with the children. They moved around the space to provide careful supervision. They greeted parents as they arrived to pick the children up from the program. They offered the children choices. They were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members worked well together and the children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mr. Espinosa states the food bank provides them with a nutrition snack.

Mr. Espinosa states the children are great. He states the older ones help the younger children a lot. He states he sees the children coming out of their shells.

Mr. Espinosa is a great on-site supervisor. He states it is important to have someone who is consistent and constant.

The program can use the playground, the gym and the cafeteria.

The program serves a diverse population. They serve children with different ethnic backgrounds, abilities, economic status and social abilities.

The YMCA continues to offer before and after school care in multiple schools in the community. This allows children to stay on site at the school and parents do not have to worry about transportation.

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

N/A

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.

*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.