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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Cedar Falls Lincoln **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46508

Street: 321 W 8th ST **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 425 Lafayette ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

Director's Name: Mindy Sternhagen **Phone Number:** 319-234-7589

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jami Rodriguez **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org

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

Date Inspected: 07-27-2022

Comments :

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	45	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2022 to 01-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-21-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/07/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lincoln Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Jami Rodriguez, an on-site supervisor. Ms. Rodriguez is a senior going toward a BA in elementary education with a minor in early childhood. Rachel Scott is the director for the program. Ms. Scott has been with the center since 2000 and has previous childcare experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Mindy Sternhagen has taken a new position within the YWCA. Rhonda McCulloch will be the new co-director for the program. There are two staff members present during the morning and afternoon hours of operation.

The program is in Lincoln Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria area and can use the gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:40 am and 3:45-6:00 pm. Wednesdays are an early out day and they begin at 1:50 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 36 children enrolled.

The cafeteria is an open space that allows for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is available in the cafeteria. The centers observed include art, library, blocks/Legos, games, table toys, and puzzles. Centers are stored in a closet located in the cafeteria.

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

The children primarily using two bathrooms located in the gym. The boys and girl's bathroom each has one toilet, and one sink and procedures were posted. They also have use of two bathrooms located down the hall from the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and three sinks. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, two urinals and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations.

The program has a cell phone and emergency numbers were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted near all the outdoor exits and program doors in the cafeteria and gym. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. 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-age program located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/27/22.

The YWCA provides breakfast and an afternoon snack. Children can also eat breakfast through the school once they are released. Menus were posted and were available for review. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The children eat in the cafeteria. There is a refrigerator in the storage closet for the YWCA program. A thermometer was not present. Please add one. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses Sani-T to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a portable bulletin board inside the entrance of 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. The area is fenced in. Part of the area uses rubber tiles for surface cushioning and part of the area uses woodchips. The area has balance beams, bars, rings, tunnels, steppingstones, a see saw, and climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is a concrete area that has two funnel ball structures. There is a small grassy area. Benches are available. Trees outside of the fences provide shade.

The program uses the gym when they are unable to go outside.

Staff members provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. They moved around the program space to interact with all the children. They used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members had great teamwork. The children appeared to have fun and enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Rodriguez states they care about the children in their program.

Ms. Rodriguez states they work through problem behaviors with the child, family and administration.

Ms. Rodriguez states the staff members work through issues as a team to come up with solutions.

The program meets a need for parents who require care for their children before and after school.

The program is a leader in the field of inclusive childcare.

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

The program strives to provide consistency in the childcare providers that work at the program in order to provide the children and families stability.

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

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 Rhonda McCulloch as a co-director. She has been approved but must go into I-Power to formally request the director role as soon as possible. Jami Rodriguez is being added as the on-site supervisor.

On 08/16/23 an administrative change is being made to name Mindy Sternhagen as the director for the program. Rachel Scott is no longer with the program. This change will be in effect for YWCA of Black Hawk County as well as the Y's Kids programs at Hansen, Kittrell, Lowell, Highland, Kingsley, North Cedar, Cedar Falls Lincoln, Cunningham, Lou Henry, Hudson, Irving and Lincoln Waterloo. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis, the co-director has also left the program. Ms. Sternhagen was previously a co-director for the program.

*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.