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

Name of Center: Grundy Family YMCA **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22292

Street: 1001 8th St **City:** Grundy Center Iowa **Zip** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 102 E G AVE, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Marquis Johnson **Phone Number:** 319-825-6210

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ally Focht **E-Mail:** mjohnson@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-07-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 04-05-2023

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				56	56
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2021 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-21-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Grundy Family YMCA program on 09-07-23 where I met with Libby Sly who is the site leader for the center. Marquis Johnson is the program director, and Ally Focht is the center supervisor. Both took over their respective roles this year and are qualified for the positions they hold based on their education, experience, and on-going training. The program provides before and after school care during the school year and full day programming during the summer for school age children only. There are approximately 25 children enrolled in the program served by 5 staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during this visit.

The program returned to making use of classrooms of the old elementary school but due to recent renovations are in different classrooms than they had been using previously. The program is now located on the 2nd floor of the building and makes use of two classrooms with one used primarily for quiet and table based activities, and the other for center play activities. Bathroom facilities are located in connecting corridor between the two classrooms. Given that the location is outside of the classrooms children should be escorted to the restrooms or staff positioned such that they have direct line of sight of the restrooms. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The room used for table activities has multiple exits while the activity center room has a single entrance. During the visit it was noted that the center had a small tent structure used a "calm down" option which was placed directly in front of one of the exits marked as a emergency exit. It was reviewed that this needs to be moved to a different location as all designated emergency exits must be maintained so that they are clear of obstruction at all times. The program also has access to a large indoor gymnasium when it is not being used by other programs. The facilities were observed to be clean with no issues regarding maintenance noted.

During the visit the program was making use of the area with the tables for children to have snack, and engage in crafts or homework activities.
A copy of the daily schedule was posted and Libby did have notebook with some curriculum plans she was working on developing. The center daily schedule and curriculum during the school year is more basic with a focus on providing the children with time to complete homework, provide a snack, and have opportunities for indoor and outdoor play. During the summer the program operates for extended hours and has a more developed schedule and curriculum plan. The activity center classroom had a good variety of options for the children to choose from and each center was stocked with toys and materials that were appropriate to the ages of the children present. The toys and materials were observed to be in good repair.

Good interactions were observed with the staff providing supervision and attending to the children's needs. It was noted that a couple of the children were having some behavioral issues with an escalating level of activity and physical play though not to the level aggression or fighting. While the teachers did intervene and redirect the children when their behavior began to present safety concerns options for positive behavioral interventions, and consequences were discussed with Libby. Both teachers were attentive to the children's needs. Ratio was maintained as required. Staff would escort children down to parents when they arrived which allowed them to ensure that the child was picked-up by an authorized contact, and the ability to provide information about the children or program to parents.

Good health and safety policies and practices were observed. First aid kits are maintained and have been labeled to identify their location. The kits were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center did not have any children taking any medications but there was a child with an identified allergy that also makes use of an "epi-pen". The center did have good allergy response plans for the child, and the Epi-pen was stored in an area where it was readily available. Good cleaning practices were observed during the visit. Chemical cleaners were stored in areas where they are not accessible to children. Staff did wait for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Good hand washing practices were observed with the staff washing their hands as needed, and ensuring the children also washed their hands.

The center makes use of the school of playground facilities for the elementary school which is located next to the building the program is in. The equipment was observed to be in good general repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was observed. While it is understood that the center does not have control over the maintenance of the playground staff would need to limit use of the play areas to those that are unsafe until maintenance is performed. In addition the area with the climbing structures there is also a large open grassy field, and a paved area where the children can play. Shade is provided by several large mature trees.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served during the school year but snacks are provided. During the summer the children bring a sack lunch and AM snack from home. Some limited snack items are maintained at the center for the PM snack, and service during the school year. The center does need to review food storage practices to ensure that all food items are stored properly. All foods whether intended for child consumption or not must be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal has been broken. The snack provided on the day of the visit consisted of crackers, string cheese, and apples. The staff did wear gloves when serving the snack. The staff did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the tables.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for consultant contact, no smoking, mandatory child abuse reporting, and the center license were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other postings were missing including handwashing procedures by all sinks used for handwashing, and emergency evacuation notices for fire and tornado. As a reminder emergency evacuation notices must include both written and diagram instructions for fire and tornado evacuation, and must be posted by all exits from all programming spaces. Child files were reviewed and all were found to contain all required information. Staff files are maintained in the program administrative offices with training certificates at the Grundy Center office, and background checks and physicals at the main Blackhawk county office. A call was made to the main Blackhawk county office where I spoke with Danielle Shae who stated that the background checks had been completed but those records are sent to the local office to maintain. A request was made to verify the location and documentation of the records and if they cannot be found to renew the background checks, and physicals. The files for training certificates were reviewed and each reviewed file contained all required information. Inspection logs and certificates were reviewed and all were found to be current and valid.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has just completed a substantial renovation of the building which provides more room for the children to move and play, and separate spaces for active and quiet play activities.

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

109.10(15)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.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
Additional concerns: Not all food items were properly stored. All foods whether intended for child consumption or not must be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal has been broken.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.