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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Lowell **Enrollment:** 28 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46514

Street: 1707 Williston AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

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

Director's Name: Mindy Sternhagen **Phone Number:** 319-296-5789

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alyssa Fankhauser **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: 09-09-2022

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 X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	42	42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2021 to 11-01-2023
	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 10/25/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lowell Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Alyssa Fankhauser, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Fankhauser has worked for the YWCA for a year and is in school working toward a degree in English education. Rachel Scott and Mindy Sternhagen are the co-directors for the program. Ms. Scott has been with the center since 2000 and has previous child care experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the program since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. The program has two staff members in the morning and two or three staff members in the afternoon.

The program is in Lowell Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-9:00 am and 3:20-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in preschool through fifth grade. There are currently 28 children enrolled.

The cafeteria is an open space that allows for free play and organized activities. Artificial lighting is used. The centers observed include art, magnets, math, playdough, blocks, games, table toys, and transportation. Centers are stored in a storage closet in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the morning program. The program was in ratio. The number of children present at the program is always changing because of children arriving and leaving.

The children use two bathrooms in the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and the boy's bathroom has two toilets and two urinals. There are six sinks outside of the two bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program has a cell phone they use and emergency numbers were programmed in the phone. Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were also in the binder. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outside exits. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There was a missing fire drill in October 2021 and a missing tornado drill in January 2022. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced each month and documented.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test has not been completed yet. The program moved in to a new building on 01/06/22. Ms. Scott only recently found out the schools do not do radon testing. She plans to test the program space this coming weekend. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the storage closet. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/09/22.

The children are offered breakfast through the school upon release from the program. The children are provided an afternoon snack. The snack is provided by the school and left in a refrigerator in the kitchen. A thermometer was present. Snack menus were posted and are located on the school lunch menu. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. Snacks 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 cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They sat with the children at the tables and maintained positive conversation. They were actively engaged in playing games with the children. They spoke with the children about sharing and encouraged children to play with one another. They used positive redirection when necessary. Ms. Fankhauser was often moving around the space to provide attention to all the children. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Fankhauser states she receives positive feedback from parents that the program is affordable and the like sending their children here.

Ms. Fankhauser states the children enjoy being at the program. She states sometimes they do not want to leave and go to class.

Ms. Fankhauser states it is nice that the program is in the school and parents do not have to worry about transportation.

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

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

Ms. Scott and Ms. Sternhagen are dedicated to the programs and families they serve. They both help care for children every morning and afternoon.

Ms. Scott states they have raised the starting wage for their employees to $15.00 per hour.

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 include preschool children as part of the age group served and to increase the capacity to 42 children.

In January 2023 an administrative change is being made to name Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis as the new co-director. Mindy Sternhagen will no longer be in this role. Rachel Scott will remain the other co-director. Ms. McCulloch-Lewis started with the program as an on-site supervisor in June 2022 and became the co-director in December 2022. She has a BA in social work, an AA in early childhood education and previous experience as both a teacher in director in childcare.

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, the co-director has also left 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.