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

Name of Center: YWCA of Black Hawk County Child Care **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22667

Street: 425 Lafayette St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50703 **County:** Black Hawk

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

Director's Name: Rachel Scott & Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis **Phone Number:** 319-234-7589

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachel Scott & Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis & Carlene Jorgensen **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: 09-11-2020

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 X Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
Summer					0
General	0	0	20	47	67

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2021 to 08-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 03-28-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/07/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to YWCA of Black Hawk County Child Care in Waterloo. I met with Mindy Sternhagen, a co-director. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the program since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. Ms. Sternhagen was not present during my visit. Rachel Scott is also a co-director. She has been with the center since 2000 and has previous child care experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Ms. Scott was not present the day of the visit. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis is the on-site supervisor/assistant director. She started in June 2022. The program employs nine staff members.

The program primarily operates during the summer months. However, this location is used to care for children during winter break, spring break and no school days. The school year program is referred to as "Playdays". It is in the local YWCA building, which is a historic building that is over 100 years old. The summer program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm and serves children who are in preschool and older. There are currently 50 children enrolled.

The YWCA also offers before and after-school programs and wrap around child care programs at thirteen elementary schools in Waterloo and Cedar Falls during the school year. These programs are also licensed through the Department of Human Services.

The program is operating out of two rooms: the Yoodles (ages five, six and seven-years-old) and the Yahoos (eight through twelve-years-old). The children also have use of the gym and the pool. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in the rooms.

The centers the program has available include library, blocks/Legos, magnets, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play woodworking, writing, STEM kits and music. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

During the summer months, the program has the same weekly theme in each room. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans based on the common theme. The children visit Gates pool each week and visit several parks in the area. The day of the visit they walked to Lincoln Park across the street from the YWCA.

The Yoodles room has a telephone. They have use of the phone in the office and use of cell phones. The emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number were posted in both areas. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted and lesson plans were available for review in the entrance.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. A radon test was completed in September 2021 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the reception area on the main level and in the control room on the lower level. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/11/20.

The program does not have a playground but uses local parks. Staff members do check the parks for safety concerns each time they visit.

The center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. The program contracts out for breakfast and lunch with the Waterloo School System during the summer months. Snack is prepared on site and is provided by the food bank. Meals arrive individually packed and disposable products are used so there is no need for dishwashing. There were Cheez-It crackers and Veggie Straws in the Yoodles room and Cheerios in the kitchen that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container and be dated. This will not be cited. Please make the correction.

The program has use of two refrigerators in the kitchen and there is a refrigerator in the Yoodles room. Thermometers were present.

For Playdays during the school year breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are provided by the food bank.

The program is using bleach and water to sanitize the food tables. In the Yoodles room the bleach was sitting on the counter near the sink. Bleach must be kept out of the reach of children.

There is bathroom located on the main level near the office. The girls' bathroom has two toilets and two sinks and the boys' bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are also bathrooms on the lower level. The girls' bathroom has one toilet and one sink and boys' bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The parent information is in the entrance of the program. The mandatory reporter information, the child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted on a bulletin board in the entrance near the children's cubbies. The license is conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members moved around the room with the children. They maintained positive conversation with them. As they prepared to go to the park staff members counted the children several times. They provided clear directions. As they lined up and walked to the park staff members were spread out to supervise the line. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

I observed staff members counting the children multiple times before leaving for the park.

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

Ms. Sternhagen states this year's staff members are spectacular.

Ms. Sternhagen states the starting rate for staff members was raised to $15 with a chance for raises each July.

The program provides a lot of opportunities to the children that other programs do not offer.

They reach children at their educational level. She states a good percent of their children have special needs and qualify for services through Central Rivers AEA. They cooperate with AEA to provide these children to identified children.

the program is offered at a low cost to families and financial aid is available through United Way Funding. They also accept children on child care assistance.

The children can use the YWCA gym and pool as part of their program day. They also frequently visit local parks and go to Gates pool each week. The program uses the YWCA buses for transportation. They are in the process of getting a third bus.

Ms. Scott and Ms. Sternhagen have been the directors of the program for many years. There is value in developing long term relationships and providing long term oversight.

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 Rhona McCulloch-Lewis as the new on-site supervisor. She started in June 2022 and was previously a director at a different location. Please have Ms. McCulloch-Lewis formally request the on-site supervisor role through I-Power.

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.

In March 2023 an administrative change is being made to add Carlene Jorgensen as an on-site supervisor. Ms. Jorgensen will be the floating on-site supervisor at several of the Y's Kids before and after school programs.

*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.