Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Aldrich Elementary

Provider No.: 50251

Address: 2526 Ashworth Dr, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett

On-Site Supervisor: Isaiah Hoth

Phone Number: 3192333531

E-Mail: BBennett@blackhawkymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/05/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/16/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Tuesday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Wednesday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Thursday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Friday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

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

1. Basic Overview

On 10/05/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Aldrich Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Isaiah Hoth, the on-site supervisor. Mr. Hoth started with the program 2.5 years ago but also worked at the YMCA with children at a different location in Iowa prior to working here. He is in school working toward an elementary education degree. There are two staff members with the children in the morning and two staff members in the afternoon.

Brandon Bennett is the director. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director, in Minnesota. His office is in the YMCA facility in Waterloo.

The program operates out of Aldrich Elementary. The program was given permission to open on 08/23/18. The program serves school-aged children. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:50-6:00 pm. Every Wednesday the school has an early out and the program begins at 1:45 pm. There are currently 35 children enrolled. The program has set their capacity at 50 children.

The program primarily operates out of the cafeteria area but also has use of the gym and playground. Windows provide natural light. The centers observed include art, Legos, magnets, and games. Centers are stored in a closet in the cafeteria. Materials were in good condition.

The program needs more center activities for children to play with while in the cafeteria. This was in the last two years' reports also.

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

The program has a YMCA cell phone for communication. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number were not posted on the parent board.

Emergency fire and tornado evacuation diagrams were not posted near any doors in the cafeteria or gym. There were written instructions near the doors. The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited for the last seven years and must be corrected immediately. Mr. Bennett informed me he corrected these the last two years but the school summer program must take them down. Mr. Bennett sent pictures showing the emergency diagrams have been posted.

The daily schedule was not posted. This was cited in last year's report also. This must be corrected.

The children use two bathrooms right outside the cafeteria. The boys' bathroom has three urinals, two toilets, and three sinks. The girls' bathroom has five toilets and three sinks. The family bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations.

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 10/27/23.

It should be noted that there was a preschool child enrolled during my visit. Mr. Bennett informed me the person who enrolls children enrolled this child not knowing they do not serve preschool children in Cedar Falls. The parents of the preschool child have been told they will no longer be able to care for the child.

The YMCA offers afternoon snacks. Snacks are provided by the YMCA. Mr. Hoth informed me that a snack menu is not being maintained. You must keep a snack menu showing the two creditable food items being served and have this information available for review during licensing visits. The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but must follow the guidelines. Mr. Hoth states they do serve two components and he will begin documenting snacks.

Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program does not have a refrigerator. There were cereals 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. This was cited in the last five years' reports also and must be corrected.

Breakfast is provided through the school and is not part of the YMCA program.

The program is using R-T-U Quaternary FCS Sanitizer on the food tables. This has a one minute dwell time. Tables must be cleaned with soap and water prior to the sanitizer.

The parent board was not present during my visit. The parent information is typically located on a bulletin board inside the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability must be posted. The license must be conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Mr. Bennett sent me an email showing me he had taken the parent board over to the site immediately following my visit.

The children use the school playground. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment available. There are swings and other swinging apparatus available for the children. There are spinning seats, monkey bars and an obstacle course. There is a bench for the children who want to rest. There is a basketball court and a grassy area.

The gym is available when the children cannot go outside.

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Children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. Two files only provided parents as an emergency contact. They must provide at least one other emergency contact. Three files did not have health statements, which in turn did means the files did not have information about the immunization records being with the school.

On 10/12/26 I reviewed one staff file. The program did not have a copy of the SING background check so they had to re-do it. The fingerprint results are invalid as they were not completed in the mandated HHS/DCI system. I have informed the program that fingerprints are mandated through our system for several years. This must be done correctly and fingerprints must be completed and mailed in prior to the employee starting. The staff member did not have a physical and has been employed since December 2024.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There were two staff members on the day of my visit. I visited during the morning program. They had great teamwork. They were actively engaged with the children in the cafeteria while they played with centers. They then took the children to the gym. One staff interacted with the children in a group game and the second staff member engaged with the children on the stage who did not want to play the game. They interacted with the children at their level. The children appeared to listen to Mr. Hoth well. When he wanted them to quiet down, he would start counting down and they would respond by quieting down. Child friendly music was playing in the gym and Mr. Hoth allowed children to choose the music. Staff members provided the children with praise and modeled good manners. They reacted immediately if a child fell during the group game to make sure they were not injured. They had great teamwork.

The program is inclusive . They make sure all the children feel included.

The program meets a need in the community to provide care for children before and after school. They are safe on the school site and do not have to transition to a new location.

Mr. Bennett states, "Think the biggest strengths of our program are the staff members we bring in from the University of Northern Iowa. The Elementary Education majors, which is roughly 90% of our staffing group, are wonderful with the kids. I also feel that the relationships we build with the school are a great strength to us. Our staff members check in with their staff almost on a daily basis to see how certain kids have been, etc. They are always willing to assist in any way they can. Furthermore, we have an extraordinary group of parents that listen to our team, take them seriously, and are willing to work with them. Lastly, even since last year, we have made extreme progress on staff being engaged with the kids, building relationships with them, and their families. This was severely lacking when I came on, and now it has turned into a strength."

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(2): Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.Mandatory reporting requirements.Notice of availability of the handbook.Name and contact information of the HHS licensing consultant.Program activities and menus.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at the main entrance of the center.
The parent board was not present during my visit. Mr. Bennett did bring the parent board to the center following my visit. CORRECTED.

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
One staff member had an invalid fingerprint result as the fingerprints were not completed through the mandated HHS process/system.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least

every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
The staff member has been employed since December 2024 and did not have a physical.

109.9(2)h: Signed and dated valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization, provided by the department must be on file for each child enrolled as required by Iowa Administrative Code 641—7.
Three students did not have records for immunization certificates being within the school.

109.9(2)j: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions.
Three files did not have health statements.

109.10(13)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.
Emergency fire and tornado evacuation diagrams were not posted near any doors in the cafeteria or gym. There were written instructions near the doors. The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited for the last seven years and must be corrected immediately. Mr. Bennett informed me he corrected these the last two years but the school summer program must take them down. Mr. Bennett sent pictures showing the emergency diagrams have been posted. CORRECTED.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Mr. Hoth informed me he has not been keeping documentation for snacks that are served.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.
There were cereals 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. This was cited in the last five years' reports also and must be corrected.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

There were repeat violations during my visit that have since been corrected. Mr. Bennett sent me pictures to verify the corrections. This includes emergency diagrams being posted and the parent board was returned to the site. I informed Mr. Bennett my expectation is that he visits the schools prior to the start of school to make sure the sites are in compliance by having mandated postings and the parent board on site. I should not be seeing repeated violations every year. All HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

This program continues to have repeat violations. All HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Mr. Hoth, the candidate for on-site supervisor must request this role through I-Power to be officially approved. I discussed qualifications with Mr. Hoth and he would have enough points to be the on-site supervisor.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I emailed Brandon Bennett, the director regarding his oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff:

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1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

How do you help staff understand the expectation associated with behavior management?

First and foremost, we make sure that staff understand that they are not alone in this and they can always rely on a leadership staff member to help them through any situation. We also work very closely with the schools, and I have talked with principals at each site, ensuring they can help with things if one of us cannot be there, as it relates to assisting with de-escalation of a situation. I reiterate with staff members that is never okay to raise your voice or touch a child in a negative manner, no matter how frustrated or upset they may feel. There is always someone else who is able to assist and help you through any situation you are having through with the children. We do have a planned class with CCR&R, specifically on how to work with children who bring about these emotions in us and best practices on how to handle these situations.

How do you help staff recognize their frustration and respond with de-escalation?

This can always be difficult, especially when we need to maintain ratios, so a staff cannot always walk away and take a five-minute break. If a child ever becomes "too much" for staff members, they always let me know, and we will send kids home promptly, with the hope it will not get to that point. We let all parents know that it is a privilege to be in the program, and if their child is being disrespectful, they will be sent home, as our staff do not deserve this and have other children to care for. We also ask that the staff members be vocal and open with one another when frustrations arise. Switching who handles behaviors on a daily basis is important, unless the child responds much better to a specific staff member. I feel that we have a very strong staffing group that handles their emotions very well, so we are very lucky.

How do you monitor these skills/expectations?

I do weekly check-in with all staff members, whether this be at site, or at The YMCA, depending on their availability. We go over many things, but numerous times, we have discussions surrounding children who are demonstrating negative behaviors, etc. What I have found most helpful and what seems to be the case in many instances is, the child is also displaying these behaviors during the school day as well. With that being said, the same skills and expectations the teachers have at the school are what our staff implement at site. I advise staff to also ask the teachers and paraprofessionals how the child's day has been at drop-off each afternoon. I ask them to have open communication with members of the school on what is working well during the day, etc. As always, I will go on site and observe and give my recommendations on how we can better assist these children, but working with the schools has been a major asset. Furthermore, we do push being a mandatory reporter very seriously to all staff, even if this is for a fellow staff member, so we absolutely hold them accountable towards one another.

Date: 10/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.