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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Cedar Falls Lincoln **Enrollment:** 34 **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): Emma Wernimont-Berry **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org
hsnider@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-03-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/03/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lincoln Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Emma Wernimont-Berry, an on-site supervisor. She started with the YWCA in June 2021. She also works for the summer program. Mindy Sternhagen is the interim director for the program. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the program since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. 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 6:30-8:30 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 34 children enrolled.

The cafeteria is an open space that allows for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is available in the cafeteria. The program also uses the gym for gross motor play. Artificial lighting is mostly used in the gym. The centers observed include art, Legos, games, table toys, dramatic pay, magnets, and puzzles. Centers are stored in a closet located in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the morning 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 handwashing 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 both 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. You must post the evacuation diagram in the gym near the exit to the outside. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board, but the parent board was not displayed.

Staff members keep a binder that detail who has permission to pick up each child. It also has information for each child on allergies, medications, photo release and travel permission.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There was documentation of fire and tornado drills for the 2024-2025 and tornado drills were documented for the 2023-2024 school year. There was no documentation of fire drills for the 2023-2024 school year. Fire and tornado drills must both be practiced every month and be documented.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. Inspections were completed for the 2023-2024 school year. There was not playground inspections completed for October or November 2024. I was informed the school custodian

completes playground inspections every month. If this is the case you must get documentation from the school.

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 from the program. Menus were posted but were outdated. Menus must be maintained for what is served for breakfast and snack and be made available for review during licensing visits. Current menus should be posted for parents. 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 present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses Sani-T-10 Plus to sanitize the food tables. I observed children bring food from home for breakfast. The program must provide a cleaned and sanitized table for the children to eat at. The table must be cleaned and sanitized between use. Additionally, children cannot walk around the space while they eat. They must remain seated.

The parent information is located on a portable bulletin board that is typically inside the entrance of the cafeteria. The parent board was not put out the day of my visit. The parent board must always be placed out. This is a repeat violation. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted on the board. The license was conspicuously posted on the board. 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 were actively engaged in activities with the children in the cafeteria. They were playing games and engaged in positive conversation. They then moved to the gym for gross motor play. They moved around the space to provide careful supervision. They greeted parents and children as they arrived at the program. They offered the children choices. They were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members worked well together and the children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Wernimont-Berry states they provide so much fun for the children. They provide fun games, breakfast and an afternoon snack.

Ms. Wernimont-Berry states she enjoys working in the program and with the children.

Ms. Wernimont-Berry states she works at the site Monday through Friday, mornings and afternoons, so the children know her expectations because she is always here.

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

The YWCA continues to offer before and after school care in multiple schools in the community. This allows children to stay on site at the school and parents do not have to worry about transportation.

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

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for:Mandatory reporter requirements.Notice of availability of handbook.Program activities.These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public.
The program has a parent board with this information but the parent board was not displayed the day of my visit. This is a repeat violation.

109.4(5): Child Care Centers and Preschool Licensing Standards and Procedures shall be available in the center and a notice

stating a copy is available for review. Contact information of the child care consultant shall be included in the notice.
The program has a parent board with this information but the parent board was not displayed the day of my visit. This is a repeat violation.

109.4(6): The child care license shall be posted in a conspicuous place and shall state the particular premises in which child care may be offered and the number of children who may be cared for at any one time.
The program has a parent board with this information but the parent board was not displayed the day of my visit. This is a repeat violation.

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.
There was no documentation of fire drills for the 2023-2024 school year. You must post the evacuation diagram in the gym near the exit to the outside.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
I observed children bring food from home for breakfast. The program must provide a cleaned and sanitized table for the children to eat at. The table must be cleaned and sanitized between use. Additionally, children cannot walk around the space while they eat. They must remain seated.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
There was not playground inspections completed for October or November 2024. I was informed the school custodian completes playground inspections every month. If this is the case you must get documentation from the school.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Menus were posted but were outdated. Menus must be maintained for what is served for breakfast and snack and be made available for review during licensing visits. Current menus should be posted for parents.

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 Emma Wernimont-Berry as the on-site supervisor.

*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.