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

Name of Center: Algona Family YMCA Childcare @ the YMCA **Enrollment:** 82 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29410

Street: 2101 E McGregor ST **City:** Algona Iowa **Zip** 50511 **County:** Kossuth

Mailing Address: 2101 E McGregor ST, Algona, IA, 50511

Director's Name: Riley Benson **Phone Number:** 515-295-7701

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** riley@algonaymca.org
greg@algonaymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-22-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 10-22-2022

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			31	89	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-26-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Algona YMCA Childcare program on 04-22-24 where I met with the center director, Riley Benson. Riley took over the director role of the program on 05-09-22 and is well qualified for the position having an Associates degree in Family & Child Services, and extensive history in providing child care in Nebraska since 2011 including as a center director since 2018. The center provides full day programing to preschool age children, and before/after school and summer programming to school age children. The school age program operates primarily out of two adjoining rooms at the YMCA but also makes use of the other facility spaces such as the pool, racquetball courts, and gymnasium. The preschool programming operates out of a third room which is dedicated to that programming. There are currently 32 children enrolled in the "Little Y" preschool program, and 50 children enrolled in the "Big Y" school age programs. While the program typically has large numbers of children enrolled for the school age programming not all attend on a regular basis or at any given time. All areas of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of each room remains the same as in prior visits. Each room has secondary exits that provide direct egress to the outdoors as well as other areas of the center. All exits were maintained so that they were free of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Evacuation notices that include both diagram and written instructions for fire and tornado evacuation were posted by each door. Each room has sinks that can allow for hand washing. The preschool room has restroom facilities available directly from the programming space so that the children do not need to leave the room. It was noted that a block has been added to the split door to ensure that if the lower half of the door is opened the upper half will also open. Additional general facility restrooms are available off the main corridors, and locker room areas. Given that those are open to all patrons staff did escort the children to the restrooms and provided supervision as needed. Windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light and a view of the outdoors in each classroom but do not open to allow ventilation. The program also makes use of the gymnasium, pool, and racquetball courts of the YMCA. These areas are generally used when other patrons are not present, or a separate and sectioned off area is used by the program. The building custodial services are responsible to provide the majority of cleaning but the center staff do have supplies for cleaning and sanitizing tables, toys, and other materials as needed. The building custodial staff also provide for maintenance and during the visit one outlet cover was observed to be damaged exposing the bare wires. Riley did contact the custodial staff and this was repaired immediately and corrected before the visit was completed.

Both classroom areas are divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures and again the general layout and arrangement remain the same. The school age room has a more recreational arrangement with several large table games such as a pool table, shuffle board table, TV area, and several general activity tables. Other activity centers are also present and include science, Lego's, art, and dramatic play. The preschool room has a more defined arrangement with activity centers arranged that provide a wider range of materials and options such as group learning, media, math/science, puzzles/games, craft, and music centers. The toys and materials present in the rooms were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children. A copy of the planned daily schedule and curriculum were not present on the day of my visit. Despite not being posted it was obvious that the program does follow a regular schedule with the teachers moving the children through self-directed center play, large motor play in the gym, small group activities, lunch, and nap. The teacher in the classroom also identified that she does have a specific learning concept focus that is

identified for each week and was able to provide examples of worksheets for letters and numbers that included coloring, tracing, counting, and other activities. Ratio was not only maintained as required but was exceeded with three teachers present in the preschool class. The after school program was not in operation at the time of my visit. Good interactions were observed with the teachers being engaged with the children. This included attending to their needs such as providing lunch and escorting them to the restroom, as well as reading stories and playing with the children.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of the visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers not only reminding the children to wash their hands but ensuring that they did so in an effective manner. Chemical cleaners, personal items, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. The center has first aid kits in each room and access to a more extensive supply of materials kept by the YMCA such as AED units. Good spacing was observed between cots during the time the children were napping that allowed for access in the event of a child needing assistance, and to reduce the risk of disease transmission. One issue that was reviewed was the need for cover sheets or some other bedding for cots that can be removed and laundered as needed.

The center has not made any changes to the outdoor area which consists of a large open field and outdoor space where the children can play. While the space does not have any climbing structures there is a paved walking trail, Frisbee golf, sand table, and other outdoor play materials that are kept in a shed that the children play with. There are mature trees which provide ample shade.

The center has completed renovations to install a stove that allows for meal preparation. The stove is located in an area used by the after school program. Counters and other furnishings define the kitchen area but access is not fully controlled with use of doors or gates. This will need to be monitored and if the children do enter into this area the center will need to install an entry system that can be closed to restrict access by the children. A copy of the menu was posted on the day of my visit and the meal served included a meatball sub, applesauce, green beans, and milk. Good food storage, handling, and preparation practices were observed with the staff washing their hands before preparing or serving food, and wearing food service gloves. The children eat in the classrooms and supervision is provided.

All required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily available an accessible to parents and visitors in both areas. In reviewing child files the center maintains enrollment forms, and generally uses parental statements of health for the children attending the Big Y program. For the preschool children attending the Little Y program the center does obtain annual physicals and of the reviewed files all were current with the exception of 1 that needed an updated physical. In reviewing staff files several issues were identified with each file missing at least one required documentation element. Of most significant concern was 6 staff who did not have an Iowa SING background check, and 9 who did not have an FBI background check. An attempt was made to conduct the SING checks during the time of the visit but due to the need to update Riley's profile and that computer system being unavailable an agreement was made to complete those checks as soon as possible, and to make arrangements to have staff fingerprints rolled and submitted by 04-26-24. In addition physicals were missing for all staff, as was documentation of all training required within the first 90 days or employment, and on-going professional development. Inspection logs and certificates were current and available for all required elements with the exception of Radon testing which had just expired in March. While those prior levels were within acceptable limits as a reminder renewed testing must be completed every 2 years. Carbon monoxide detectors were present, and the facility does make use of a boiler system that would be subject to inspection by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program does have a very strong group of staff and has been able to maintain a high level of stability in the programming delivery.

Riley and the center staff were very responsive in addressing issues that were identified such as taking immediate action to correct the damaged electrical cover, and staff record checks.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
-- Number not in compliance: 13

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 9

109.9(1)d: 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.
-- Number not in compliance: 13

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 11

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.
-- One electrical box cover was damaged and exposed the bare wires in the Big Y classroom. Cots need slip covers, or other bedding that can be removed and laundered as needed. -- NOTE: The damaged electrical cover was repaired immediately upon discovery and prior to completion of the licensing visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain 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: Confirmation was received on 04-25-24 that all Iowa SING checks were completed.
NOTE: A service referral has been made to Child Care Resource and Referral to assist the center with developing training plans for staff.

*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.