Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 6567

Address: 1701 S 8th AVE E, Newton, IA, 50208

County: Jasper

Director's Name: Serenity Bookout

On-Site Supervisor: Hannah Edwards

Phone Number: 6417927021

E-Mail: serenity.bookout@newtonymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/08/2025

Licensing Period: 08/01/2024 to 08/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/17/2023

Comments: date of compliance - 5/24 /23

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	20	70	30	136
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The YMCA Early Learning Center has been in operation since 1993. The center offers child care services for children ages infancy through school age. The center has several program rooms within the YMCA building. There is a secured entrance that parents use to enter the daycare center. Serenity Bookout is the director. She's been in this position since November 2021. Serenity has been employed with the YMCA since 2018. Hannah Edwards is the assistant director. Hannah has been employed with the daycare since 2020.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Classroom schedules are posted by classroom doors. Classrooms had current lesson plans posted in their rooms.

Serenity assisted with today's visit. There were eight infants present in the nursery classroom. Three staff were working in this classroom. The baby toddlers class had three toddlers present. One staff was working with in this class. The toddlers class had seven children present. There were two staff working in this class. The 2's classroom had eleven children present. There were two staff working in this class. There were thirteen children present in the 3's classroom. Three staff were working with this class. The 4's/5's classroom had thirteen children present. Two staff were working with in this classroom . There were twenty one school age children were present. Two staff were working with this class. Children were observed in classrooms and outdoors today. Children were observed having snack today. Children were observed playing within interest areas and during transition times today. Staff were observed interacting and playing along side children during their play and learning activities. Staff were walking around and positioned throughout the playgrounds.

The center has a full kitchen. The center has a full time cook. The center participates in CACFP. Breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are served. Menus are on a four week rotations with some modifications for seasons. Snack served today was apples and milk.

The center has two playgrounds. One playground is used by toddlers through the 4/5's classroom. There is poured rubber surfacing, concrete paths and artificial grass turf for surfacing. There are a few small climbing structures, swings, picnic tables and other outdoor toys available. The second playground is used by school age children. There is poured rubber surfacing. There are swings and a large climbing structure. There is a soccer field and spacious grass area. The center completed monthly playground checks.

The center rented Newton School busing for off site field trips. Newton School District provides school transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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The daycare participates in IQ4K and has a quality rating of three stars. The centers are well furnished with age appropriate supplies and toys. The center can use the YMCA's gym for large motor play activities.. The center has a few playgrounds that are specifically developed for different age groups.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7833; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.

Date: 09/09/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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**.