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

Name of Center: Algona Family YMCA Childcare @ the YMCA **Enrollment:** 65 **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: Chelsi Muleski **Phone Number:** 515-295-7701

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

Date(s) of Visit: 05-21-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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:** 05-25-2025

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 05-21-25 where I met with the center director, Chelsi Muleski. Chelsi took over the director role of the program on 10-01-24 and is well qualified for the position having BA degree, and having been with the program since 2012. The center provides full day programing to preschool age children that are at least 3 years of age and toilet trained, and before/after school and summer programming to school age children. There are currently 30 children enrolled in the "Little Y" preschool program, and 35 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. The program is served by 12 staff. All areas of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and operation of each room remains the same as in prior visits. 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. 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 are 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. Additional general facility restrooms are available off the main corridors, and locker room areas. 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 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. There were not maintenance concerns noted in any of the classrooms. All classroom areas are divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures that are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. 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 present.

Good interactions were observed on the day of the visit with the teachers of the school age program moving the children through the schedule from arrival, to lunch, and then into a large group activity in the gym. The children were laying down for nap time in the Little Y program during the time of the visit and the teachers were observed to be positioned throughout the room sitting by children and rubbing their backs to help soothe them. All of the teachers were observed to use positive and engaging tones of voice. Ratio was maintained as required with additional staff in each area.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the time of the visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the school age children being directed to wash their hands upon arrival and before lunch service. 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. Cot cover sheets or some other bedding for cots that can be removed and laundered as needed were not present for the children

napping in the preschool room and these are required. During the visit children were observed to be sent to the restrooms from the school age program on their own using "hall passes" to identify them as being with the licensed program. It was reviewed that licensing does require close and careful supervision which is interpreted to mean that they are within sight and sound of staff at all times. While staff would not need to enter into the restrooms unless there is a need/request for assistance they should escort children to the restrooms and back.

The center outdoor area 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 kitchen area is located in the space used by the school age 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 was consistent with the planned menu. The menu does identify a good variety of nutritious meal and snack options consistent with CACFP guidelines. Good food storage, handling, and preparation practices were observed with the staff washing their hands before preparing or serving food, wearing food service gloves, and using measured scoops when portioning meals. The children eat in the classrooms and supervision is provided.

All required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily available and 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. One issue that was noted is that many of the Little Y program were also using the Parental Statement of Health form. It was reviewed that an annual physical from the child's medical provided is required for all non-school age children meaning any child not enrolled in Kindergarten or above. In reviewing staff files Chelsi has updated both the files, and system used to maintain those records including a self-audit to identify missing information. The self-audit did identify 6 files that need an updated physical, 5 that needed Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training, and 4 that needed Essentials Of Child Care training. Inspection logs and certificates were current and available for all required elements with the exception of Radon testing which had expired in March 2024 which showed levels below the 4.0 pCi/L cutoff limit. Recent changes to licensing requirements does allow that for programs that do not have a mitigation system and which has tested levels below the cutoff limit can move to 5 year retesting. 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 but Chelsi did state that she does intend to review and revise those policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Chelsi has taken over as the new director of the program and as worked to not only maintain the quality of the programming for the children, but has also worked to update records and other administrative processes. In addition to the revisions of files and policies Chelsi stated that they have begun having staff meetings for training and collaboration.

Chelsi reported that the center has also implemented a change to the program behavior management system with use of a positive recognition component where by children can earn tokens to build to various types of rewards.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

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: 6

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- The center was using Parental Statements of Health for preschool age children which is only allowed for children enrolled in Kindergarten or above. An annual physical from the child's primary health provided is required for all preschool age children.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- Children were sent to use the restrooms on their own with a "hall pass" which cannot be allowed. Children must be within sight and sound of staff at all times including escorting children to restrooms that are located outside the programming classroom.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.