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

Name of Center: Grundy Family YMCA SAC-Gladbrook Reinbeck Elem **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52226

Street: 300 Cedar ST **City:** Reinbeck Iowa **Zip** 50669 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 102 E G AVE, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett **Phone Number:** 319-345-2822

On-Site Supervisor(s): Madyson Walter **E-Mail:** mjohnson@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-01-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-23-2023

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 07-24-2023

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				75	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-08-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-15-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was made to the Grundy Family YMCA Reinbeck after school program on 08-01-24 where I met with Makinley Walter as the lead teacher, Brice Clark, was not in but did arrive later. Brandon Bennet is the program director, and Madison Walter is the site supervisor for the program and is qualified for that position based on her experience, education, and training. Madison also oversees additional afterschool programs operated by the YMCA in the area. The program is operated out of the gym/cafeteria space of the Reinbeck elementary school but also makes use of the school library. While the program has a strong collaborative relationship with the school it is operated independently under a separate board of directors. The center provides programming for school age children only with Before & After School Programming during the school year, and full day programming during the summer. The program has was given permission to open in 2023. There are approximately 25 children enrolled in the program though not all attend at the same time, and the enrollment varies between the summer and school year programs. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the facilities and program remain the same as in prior visits. As noted the program makes use of the school gym/cafeteria, and library, however on the day of the visit the program was making use of the Art room due to maintenance and cleaning being done in those areas. Both areas have a general design that is consistent with their intended purpose. The gym/cafeteria is a large open space with folding trestle tables that can put out where the children can gather, eat snacks, or engage in games or activities that require a flat stable surface. The library has a number of book shelves, and some tables where the children can again engage in activities that requires a flat stable surface. The book shelves do create limited sight lines and blind areas where the staff do need to be aware of their positioning, and the activities of the children to ensure that supervision is maintained. Both have multiple exits and all exits were clear of obstruction. Restrooms are located outside the rooms off the main passage corridors. Due to the multiple use nature of the space the program is not able to establish typical activity centers. The programs does maintain some equipment and materials, but also makes use of school equipment such as balls and other items that can be used in the gym, and on the playground.

The center does have a daily schedule and curriculum plan but these were not posted on the day of my visit. The curriculum during the summer tends to be more activity based focused. The children were outside on the playground when I arrived and the staff present identified that they had planned to be outside for an hour that morning. Following that time the group returned to the classroom where the children engaged in self directed center play. There were a good variety of center options despite the classroom not being part of the usual programming space. Activity options included media center, books, art/craft, table games, and small manipulatives.

One issue that was observed was the center was out of ratio when I arrived and this did result in and was compounded by other issues. Upon arrival there was only 1 staff member present who identified that a scheduled co-worker had called in sick. The employee identified that while there was supposed to be someone coming in to assist there did not appear to be any real plan regarding when that was to occur, or what to do in the meantime. The reduced ratio was further compounded by the center using an electronic communications application to track enrollment but did not have access to internet and so when asked how many children were present the teacher stated she was not able to access the information and stated she thought there were about 17 children. When I did conduct a head count there were 20 children present, and it was

confirmed that all of the children present were part of the group. A second employee did arrive at the center at 9:55 AM which would have been a significant delay from the start of the programming day at 7:00 AM. Having the large number of children with only one staff also resulted in that teacher having to engaged in more observational supervision, and reactive behavior management such as using firmer tones of voice, telling children to stop, and redirecting behavior after the fact. While there were no significant behavioral concerns this was a departure from past and later observed interactions where the staff used more engaged interaction and proactive behavior management techniques of establishing boundaries and reminders of expected behaviors.

During the visit the children were escorted to the restrooms and the staff did ensure that they washed their hands following restroom use. The school custodial services are responsible for the main cleaning of the facilities. The program also makes use of the first aid kit maintained by the school when on the playground, and first aid supplies that are maintained in the nurse/administrative offices of the school. While there are supplies necessary to address most common first aid needs available it was noted that the materials that were readily accessible were more limited. It has been recommended in the past that program maintain a fully stocked first aid kit which can be taken wherever the class is located. There were no children taking any medications at the time of the visit but the center does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future.

The program does make use of the school playground and while the school is responsible for maintenance the center does need to limit those children to elements that are safe and appropriate. The pea gravel used for fall surfacing did appear to have been recently aerated so that there was generally sufficient depth of material present. There is a variety of climbing structures, swings, paved, and grassy areas for the children to choose from. The large climbing/slide structure was observed to have some maintenance issues including a step platform where the wire mesh had broken away along the edge of a support bar creating both a tripping hazard and a possible collapse hazard. While the strength of the mesh did appear to be strong enough to support the weight of the children this does need to be repaired. Additionally the bolts used to anchor the east facing slide chute to the support platform were loose or missing such that children needed to be restricted from use of that element until such time that it is repaired.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. During the school year children bring a sack lunch from home. The program does have access to refrigeration facilities to store child lunches if needed. Snacks that are provided generally include prepackaged single serving items. A copy of the planned menu was not posted and either one needs to be developed or if the center does not know what will be provided a menu of what is provided needs to be maintained.

In reviewing administrative records the required notices for Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting were not present or posted in an area where they were readily accessible. This was cited in the prior report as well. If these cannot be maintained in a parental notice area the center will need to maintain them in a notebook which can be brought out when the program is in operation where parents would be able to access it. This could also be used for the other notices and postings such as the schedule, curriculum, menu, evacuation plans, etc. In reviewing child files the center did have contact information for each child. Staff files are maintained at the program central office in Grundy Center and were not available for review. It is noted that the staff present had been with the center in the prior year when files were reviewed and found to contain all required information which would still be valid. Inspections logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new program that was started to meet a community need for older children who supervision for limited timeframes. The program as sought to create a plan of activities for the children that is engaging and supportive of learning and skill development.

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.
-- Notice was not present on the day of my visit -- NOTE: 2nd Year Cited.

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.
-- Notice was not present on the day of my visit -- NOTE: 2nd Year Cited.

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age.
-- The program was out of ratio at the time of arrival for the visit with only 1 staff member present with 20 children. -- CORRECTED

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.
-- The outdoor playground is not safe with one east facing slide chute that had loose hardware, and a step platform that had an area of mesh flooring that was separating. The center shall restrict children from using the identified slide chute until the hardware is tightened. The center needs to monitor the step platform as both a tripping hazard and potential for failure. If the separation continues to worsen, or issues with use are observed the center shall restrict children from use of that structure until repairs can be affected.

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: 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.