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: 08/27/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/20/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] 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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

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 were posted in each classroom. Current lesson plans were posted today. The center uses BrightWheel.

Serenity assisted with today's visit. Present enrollment is 117. There were five infants present in the nursery class. Two staff were working in this classroom. There were seven infants present in the older infants class. There were two staff working in this class. Six children were in attendance in the toddlers (1's) class. The 2's classroom had nine children in attendance. Two staff were working with this age group. The three's classroom had twelve children present. Two staff were working with this age group. The 4/5's class had sixteen children present. Three staff were working in this room. School age children weren't at the center during the visit. Children were observed in their classrooms. Snack time was observed in some rooms. Transition times were observed. Children were seen playing in small groups and during some staff led activities. Interactions between staff and children were observed to be positive throughout the visit.

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 today

was pudding, animal crackers and water.

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 uses school buses for off site field trips. Newton School District provides school transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The daycare participates in IQ4K and has a quality rating of three stars. Classrooms 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

109.9(1)c: 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.
One staff is overdue for mandatory child abuse training.

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: 09/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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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**.