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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at North Cedar **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46384

Street: 2419 Fern AVE **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 425 Lafayette ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

Director's Name: Mindy Sternhagen **Phone Number:** 319-234-7589

On-Site Supervisor(s): Allie Norvell **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-17-2021

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: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	30	30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-21-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/09/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at North Cedar Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Rhonda Lewis the assistant director at the YWCA. Allie Norwell is the on-site supervisor, but she was not present during my visit. Rachel Scott and Mindy Sternhagen are the co-directors for the program and their offices are in the YWCA building in Waterloo. Ms. Scott has been with the center since 2000 and has previous childcare experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the program since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. There is two staff members present during the morning session and two or three staff members during the afternoon session.

The program is in North Cedar Elementary. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:45-6:00 pm. On Wednesdays the program has an early dismissal time of 1:50 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 20 children enrolled.

The program primarily operates out of the cafeteria. The cafeteria is an open space that allows for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is used in the cafeteria. The program is also able to use the gym. The centers observed include art, library, blocks, games, Play-Doh, table toys, and transportation. Centers are stored in a closet outside of the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon session. The program was in ratio. The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving.

The children use two bathrooms in the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and the boy's bathroom has two toilets and two urinals. There are three sinks outside of the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program has a cell phone and emergency numbers were programmed in the phone and a there was a posting on the side of the refrigerator. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outside exits in the cafeteria and gym. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. Radon testing, a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the program is exempt from environmental assessments as a before and after school-age program located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/17/21.

The YWCA provides breakfast and an afternoon snack. Menus were posted and were available for review. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The children eat in the cafeteria. There is a refrigerator in the cafeteria for the YWCA program. A thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

The playground has rubber tiles for surface cushioning. It has climbing equipment that includes slides and other climbing activities. There are swings, a balance beam, teeter totter, bars and a playhouse. There is a GaGa Ball area and a large grassy area for the children.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were outside on the playground with the children. They were spread out to provide careful supervision. They were moving around and interacting with the children. They engaged in positive conversation and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children, such as pushing them on the swings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Lewis states the staff members enjoy one another and enjoy working together.

Ms. Lewis states they have staff members who are in college and non-college students, and everyone has something to offer and everyone brings something different to the program.

Ms. Lewis states it is great that they can work with the schools and offer this program to families.

The program meets a need for parents who require care for their children before and after school.

Staff focus on building relationships with the children.

The program serves a diverse population. They serve children with different ethnic backgrounds, abilities, economic status and social abilities.

The YWCA continues to offer before and after school care in multiple schools in the community. This allows children to stay on site at the school and parents do not have to worry about transportation.

Ms. Scott states they have raised the starting wage for their employees to $15.00 per hour.

Ms. Scott and Ms. Sternhagen are dedicated to the programs and families they serve. They both help care for children every morning and afternoon.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

In January 2023 an administrative change is being made to name Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis as the new co-director. Mindy Sternhagen will no longer be in this role. Rachel Scott will remain the other co-director. Ms. McCulloch-Lewis started with the program as an on-site supervisor in June 2022 and became the co-director in December 2022. She has a BA in social work, an AA in early childhood education and previous experience as both a teacher in director in childcare.

On 08/16/23 an administrative change is being made to name Mindy Sternhagen as the director for the program. Rachel Scott is no longer with the program. This change will be in effect for YWCA of Black Hawk County as well as the Y's Kids programs at Hansen, Kittrell, Lowell, Highland, Kingsley, North Cedar, Cedar Falls Lincoln, Cunningham, Lou Henry, Hudson, Irving and Lincoln Waterloo. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis, the co-director has also left the program. Ms. Sternhagen was previously a co-director for the program.

*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.