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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Lou Henry **Enrollment:** 19 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46513

Street: 312 Rachael ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **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): Isabelle Smith **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org
hsnider@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-11-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 10-02-2023

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: 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	45	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/11/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lou Henry Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Isabelle Smith, an on-site supervisor. Ms. Smith started with the program in the summer of 2024. She is in college for elementary education with a Strat 1 minor. Mindy Sternhagen is the interim director for the program. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the program since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. The program has two employees present during the morning and the afternoon hours of operation.

The program is in Lou Henry Elementary. They primarily operate out of the cafeteria and gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:45-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. There are currently 19 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allow for free play and organized activities. There is natural lighting in the cafeteria. Artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include art, dramatic play, Legos, games, Play-Doh, magnets and table toys. Centers are stored in a storage unit in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon program. They were in ratio. The number of children present at the program is always changing because of children arriving and leaving.

The children use two bathrooms in the entrance of the cafeteria. The girls, bathroom has six toilets, and two birdbath sinks, and the boys' bathroom has two toilets, five urinals and two birdbath sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in the girls' bathroom but must also be posted in the boys' bathroom. This was cited in last year's report also. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program has a cell phone they use, and emergency numbers were programmed in the phone. Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were in the staff binder. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outside exits in the cafeteria and almost all the exits out of the gym. You must post the evacuation diagram near the exit between the gym and the hallway to the kitchen in the gym. A daily schedule was posted.

Staff members keep a binder that detail who has permission to pick up each child. It also has information for each child on allergies, medications, photo release and travel permission.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There was not a fire drill documented for December 2023 through May 2024. There was no documentation of tornado drills for the 2023-2024 school year. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced and documented every month. This is a serious offense. Fire and tornado drills have been practiced thus far for the 2024-2025 school year. The program must continue to practice fire and tornado drills every month.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections for the 2024-2025 school year. There was no documentation of playground inspections for the 2023-2024 school year.

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 program that serves only school-aged children and located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/02/23.

The children are offered breakfast through the school after being released from the program. The afternoon snack is provided by the school and left in a milk cooler in the kitchen. A thermometer was present. Snack menus were posted. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses Sani-T to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a portable 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.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. The area is mostly fenced in. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. There are multiple pieces of climbing equipment located in the play area. Some of the items available include slides, a see saw, a merry-go-round, bars, a climbing wall, and a balance beam. They also had a stationary bus for the children to play on. There are benches available. There is a large grassy area for the children and a concrete area for the children with basketball hoops and funnel ball. Shade is provided by trees.

There is a gym available when the children cannot go outside.

I spoke with the staff members about emergency preparedness plans. Staff members did not know evacuation locations. They are not trained on emergency preparedness plans. Licensing standards mandate that all staff members are trained on emergency preparedness plans every year. You must start doing this and have documentation available to verify staff members are trained.

Staff members had great teamwork. They offered children choices between the gym and the cafeteria. They were patient and used positive redirection with a child who had challenging behaviors. They stayed calm and allowed the child to have their space. They talked with children about playing respectfully and using nice words. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. They offered to play games with them and let them pick the game. Staff members appear to know all the parents that came to pick the children up. The staff members were playing music for the children and they were dancing and having fun. Ms. Smith stated that the children did not have a good day yesterday so she brought new games and a speaker for the music to entertain the children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Smith states she loves the YWCA and Sherry Davenport at the administration office, has offered a lot of support.

Ms. Smith states she likes how the YWCA holds children and families responsible. They have high expectations for them.

Ms. Smith states she is going to college for education and she has learned how important structure and communication with parents is.

Ms. Smith states that Trista Kula is her assistant and they make a great team.

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

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.

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

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There was not a fire drill documented for December 2023 through May 2024. There was no documentation of tornado drills for the 2023-2024 school year. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced and documented every month. This is a serious offense. Fire and tornado drills have been practiced thus far for the 2024-2025 school year. The program must continue to practice fire and tornado drills every month.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
There was no documentation of playground inspections for the 2023-2024 school year.

Post Handwashing Procedures near the sinks in the boys bathroom.

Staff members must be trained on emergency preparedness plans annually.

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.

An administrative change is being made to name Isabelle Smith as the on-site supervisor.

*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.