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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Lou Henry **Enrollment:** 30 **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): Blaze Bouzek **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: 08-31-2021

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	45	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2022 to 01-01-2024
	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 12/06/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lou Henry Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Blaze Bouzek, the on-site supervisor. Rachel Scott is the director for the program. Ms. Scott has been with the center since 2000 and has previous childcare experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Mindy Sternhagen has taken a new position within the YWCA. Rhonda McCulloch will be the new co-director for the program. The program has two employees present during the morning and the afternoon hours.

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 6:30-8:40 am and 3:40-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. There are currently 30 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, library, blocks, games, table toys, and transportation. Centers are stored in a storage unit in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the morning program. The program was 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 girl's bathroom has six toilets, and two birdbath sinks, and the boy's bathroom has two toilets, five urinals and two birdbath sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted. 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 also in the binder. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outside exits in the cafeteria and in the 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 program that serves only school-aged children and located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/31/21.

The children are offered breakfast through the school upon release from the program. The YWCA provides an afternoon snack. The snack is provided by the school and left in a milk cooler in the kitchen. Snack menus were posted and are located on the school lunch menu. 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.

Staff members were amazing with the children. They provided the children with praise and gave the children options of activities. They sat with the children at tables and actively played with the children. They used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members talked with the children to work through disagreements. They were great mediators. They maintained positive conversation with the children. They greeted parents and children as they arrived. Staff members reminded children to wash their hands as they arrived. The children enjoyed themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mr. Bouzek states they are good at collaborating with the teachers to meet the needs of the children.

Mr. Bouzek states he likes to take the time to meet with teachers, parents and counselors to discuss strategies on how to best deal with children who have behaviors. He states he wants to understand their situation so he can help them anyway possible.

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

Ms. Scott states the 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.

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.

An administrative change is being made to name Rhonda McCulloch as a co-director. She has been approved but must go into I-Power to formally request the director role as soon as possible. Blaze Bouzek is being added as an on-site supervisor.

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.