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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Lowell **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46514

Street: 1707 Williston AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

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

Director's Name: Mindy Sternhagen **Phone Number:** 319-296-5789

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alyssa Fankhauser **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org
hsnider@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-21-2024

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: 09-09-2022

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 X 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	42	42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-29-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/21/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lowell Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Kenedie Clayton, who is in charge on Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Alyssa Fankhauser is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Fankhauser works every morning and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Ms. Fankhauser has worked for the YWCA for two years and is in school working toward a degree in English education. 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 typically has three staff members in the morning and three staff members in the afternoon.

The program is in Lowell Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria. They also have use of the gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:35-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in preschool through fifth grade. There are currently 37 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allows for free play and organized activities. Artificial lighting is used. The centers observed include art/crafts, magnets, math, Legos, games, table toys, and dramatic play. Centers are stored in a storage closet in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon 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 cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and the boy's bathroom has two toilets and two urinals. There are six sinks outside of the two bathrooms. 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 gym. A daily schedule was not posted. You must post a daily schedule. I would recommend placing it on the parent board.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There was not a morning fire or tornado drill this school year. For the 2023-2024 school year there was not a morning fire or tornado drill in April or May 2024. There was not an afternoon tornado drill in October 2023 or March 2024 and no afternoon fire drill in March 2024. Fire and tornado drills must occur every month and all children must practice them. There are children who only attend morning care and children who only attend afternoon care so drills must be practiced in the morning and afternoon.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. No playground inspections have been completed for the 2024 -2025 school year. For the 2023-2024 school year there were no playground inspections on the preschool playground in January or March through May 2024 and no inspection on the school age playground in January through May 2024. Playground inspections must occur every month.

A radon test was completed in November 2022 and must be repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the storage closet. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/09/22.

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.

The children are offered breakfast through the school upon release from the program. The children are provided an afternoon snack while in care. The snack is provided by the school and left in a refrigerator in the kitchen. A thermometer was present. Snack menus were not available for review. You should be able to get a copy from the school. The snack menu should be 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 program did not have a parent board out. This is mandated. I recommend you place the parent board in the entrance where children are dropped off and typically picked up. The parent board must include the mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability. The current license must be conspicuously posted. I would recommend posting the daily schedule and snack menu on the parent board as well. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has use of two fenced in school playgrounds. They usually use the preschool playground, but on Fridays when the preschool children are not present, they use the school-age program.

The preschool program uses poured-in-place rubber for fall surfacing. It also has a grassy area. There is a playhouse, rocking toys and a music center. There is a climbing equipment with slides, a tunnel, a climbing wall and other activities. There are benches for the children to rest. There is a shade structure and tress for shade.

The school-age program uses poured-in-place rubber for fall surfacing. There are multiple pieces of climbing equipment with slides, climbing walls, steppingstones, different type of monkey bars and rings, climbing ropes and other activities. There is a zip-line, spinning toys and a teeter totter. There are benched for the children rest.

The children were out on the preschool playground when I arrived. A staff member was playing ball with a group of children. They moved around the playground to provide supervision. Staff members provided children choices and tried to include and/or invite children who were not involved in activities. They provided the children with praise. Staff members greeted the parents as they arrived to pick children up. I observed children hug staff members good-bye. Staff members rewarded a child with a sticker for having a good day.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Clayton states staff members have a good relationship with the children and their parents.

Ms. Clayton states she loves all the children they work with.

Judy DuBois, the assistant, states they are getting to know the parents of the children which is great.

Ms. DuBois states they are getting to know the teachers at Lowell Elementary. The preschool teachers at the school have helped them calm the children down at times.

The parents love the program. It is nice for them to be able to have care for the children before and after school so they do not need to worry about transportation.

Staff members keep the children entertained. They can use the gym every other day for gross motor activities.

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

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

109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents.

The program did not have a parent board. This is mandated. This information would be posted on the parent board. I would recommend placing the parent board in the entrance where children are dropped off and typically picked up.

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.
The program did not have a parent board. This is mandated. This information would be posted on the parent board. I would recommend placing the parent board in the entrance where children are dropped off and typically picked up.

109.4(6): The child care license shall be posted in a conspicuous place and shall state the particular premises in which child care may be offered and the number of children who may be cared for at any one time.
The program did not have a parent board. This is mandated. This information would be posted on the parent board. I would recommend placing the parent board in the entrance where children are dropped off and typically picked up.

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.
There was not a morning fire or tornado drill this school year. For the 2023-2024 school year there was not a morning fire or tornado drill in April or May 2024. There was not an afternoon tornado drill in October 2023 or March 2024 and no afternoon fire drill in March 2024. Fire and tornado drills must occur every month and all children must practice them. There are children who only attend morning care and children who only attend afternoon care so drills must be practiced in the morning and afternoon.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
No playground inspections have been completed for the 2024-2025 school year. For the 2023-2024 school year there were no playground inspections on the preschool playground in January or March through May 2024 and no inspection on the school age playground in January through May 2024. Playground inspections must occur every month.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The program is required to have a daily schedule. I would recommend posting it on the parent board.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Snack menus were not available for review. You should be able to get a copy from the school. The snack menu should be posted.

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 Mindy Sternhagen as the interim director.

*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.