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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at North Cedar **Enrollment:** 35 **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 & Sherie Roberts **Phone Number:** 319-234-7589

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

Date(s) of Visit: 11-15-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** X **No** **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 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-29-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/15/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Y's Kids at North Cedar Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Alexus Gause, an on-site supervisor. 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. Sherie Roberts was recently hired as the new director of the Y's Kids programs and her start date was 10/23/23. Ms. Sternhagen is training her. Ms. Roberts has a BA in public relations and a MA in history. Ms. Roberts worked in the Waterloo Community School District for 4.5 years as a paraeducator, family support worker and behavior focus coach. She was the executive director of two non-profit organizations. 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 35 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. Emergency numbers were also 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 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 Sani-T to sanitize the food tables. The day of my visit the Sani-T bottle and the soap and water bottle were

empty. Make sure you have these products available to sanitize food tables.

The playground has rubber tiles for surface safety cushioning. It has climbing equipment that includes slides, monkey bars, a climbing wall, a rope wall and other climbing activities. There are swings, teeter totter, steppingstones, spinning toys, and a playhouse. There is a GaGa Ball area and a large grassy area for the children. There is a basketball court. Trees provide shade.

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.

The children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. One file did not have information with next of kin with emergency phone numbers. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

On 10/24/23 I reviewed one staff file at the YWCA of Black Hawk County site. The staff member did not have a current Iowa background check (SING). The staff member had an outdated universal precautions training and the physical is invalid because it was not on the mandated DHH form.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. 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. They had great teamwork. They were nurturing when children were upset. The children appeared to enjoy themselves at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Gause states staff members have great communication skills with one another and with administration. When children have disagreements, they communicate that with administration.

Ms. Gause states they have good programming for the children. They have different games and activities for the children to enjoy. They also play a group game in the gym each morning.

Ms. Gause states they care for children with disabilities and staff members and the children provide an inclusive environment.

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.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff member had an outdated SING check.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
The staff member had an outdated universal precautions training and the physical is invalid because it was not on the mandated DHH form.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

An administrative change is being made to name Sherie Roberts as the new director of the program. She started with the program in October 2023.

*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.