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

Name of Center: YSS Ballard Kids Club **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17922

Street: 105 E Main ST **City:** Slater Iowa **Zip** 50244 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 420 Kellogg AVE, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Nichole Schroer **Phone Number:** 515-291-9050

On-Site Supervisor(s): Andrea Palomo **E-Mail:** NSchroer@yss.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-26-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-21-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-20-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				75	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 05-03-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit took place on 4/26/23. The director and On-Site Supervisor were present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This YSS-Ballard Kids Club is located in the elementary school building in Slater. This building is for K-2nd grade and is called Ballard West. The 3rd-5th graders attend Ballard East which is in Cambridge. A school bus transports the students between the two schools and this site provides programming for K-5th grade.

This site is used year round. During the school year morning care is offered from 6:30-8:00 am. After school care is from 3-6:00 pm. Summer hours are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. Programming is held in the cafeteria, the commons space and the gym is used at times as well.

Nichole Schroer is the director for this program, as well as the other YSS programs in the area. Nichole has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and has been with this program for seven years. Nichole meets qualifications to be the director. Andrea Palomo is the On-Site Supervisor. Andrea has an Associate's degree in Human Services and has worked for YSS for almost 6 years. She meets qualifications for this position.

The capacity changed in 2020 from 50 to 75 to accommodate the increasing numbers for enrollment. The program uses both cafeterias/commons areas now; one has a capacity of 43 and the other has a capacity of 60. The gym has a capacity of 111.

Starting on the 5th of May, 2023, up until the start of the new school year in August of 2023, this program will use the Middle School in Huxley for programming due to construction at the elementary school in Slater. The Middle school was observed on 4/26/23. They will use the cafeteria, which is split into two sections, one section has a capacity for 68 children and one section has a capacity for 54 children. They can also use the gym and will have access to a fenced in field area outside.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

YSS staff partner well with the school and are able to speak with the teachers regarding a child's day at school or any behavioral concerns. The school is very supportive of this program.

The staff are professional and invested in providing quality care. Staff communicate well with families.

The program collaborates and partners with other agencies and programs, such as Iowa State University with America Reads and America Counts.

ISU extension comes out monthly and this year they have been doing a program called Pick a Better Snack with the children. They teach the children about nutrition.

The program conducts field trips in the summer and offers activities for the children daily.

The program has started a reward system for the children for good behavior. They use the Class Do-Jo app and the children earn points for prizes.

During the school year volunteers through YSS come to the program to mentor the children.

The On-Site Supervisor has developed strong working relationships with school personnel, as well as other agencies that come to the school and program, such as Lifeworks. The On-Site Supervisor and staff are able to manage children's behaviors if they become more challenging. The On-Site Supervisor has the children make cards, which the children enjoy, for teachers, bus drivers, janitors and cooks at the school.

YSS sent out surveys to teachers and received positive feedback.

The on-site supervisor is very organized.

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

There were no aspects of operation the fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Children bring in their own sack lunch during full day care and the program provides for snacks. The snack menu had creditable food items.

*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.