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

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Aldrich Elementary **Enrollment:** 44 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50251

Street: 2526 Ashworth Dr **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 669 S Hackett Rd, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Bekah Stevens & Brandon Bennett **Phone Number:** 319-233-3531

On-Site Supervisor(s): Joseph Espinosa **E-Mail:** bstevens@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-03-2024

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: 10-27-2023

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				50	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-28-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/03/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Aldrich Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with German Alvarenga, the on-site supervisor. He is present during the morning and afternoon hours. Mr. Alvarenga has decided to leave the job and Joseph Espinosa will be taking over as the on-site supervisor. Mr. Espinosa is also the Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator at the Family YMCA of Black Hawk County. He started with the YMCA in April 2021.

Brandon Bennett and Bekah Stevens are the co-directors. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Ms. Stevens is the director of the ELC program. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director, in Minnesota. Mr. Bennett is primarily in charge of the school age programs and Ms. Stevens primarily oversees the early learning center. Ms. Stevens has been employed with the YMCA since September 2020. She has a BA in Social Work and Spanish. Their offices are in the YMCA facility in Waterloo. There are typically two staff members present during the morning hours and two staff members present during the afternoon hours of operation.

The program operates out of Aldrich Elementary. The program was given permission to open on 08/23/18. The program serves school-aged children. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:50-6:00 pm. Every Wednesday the school has an early out and the program begins at 1:50 pm. There are currently 44 children enrolled. The program has set their capacity at 50 children.

The program primarily operates out of the cafeteria area, but also has use of the gym and playground. Windows provide natural light. The centers observed include art, table toys, transportation, and games. Centers are stored in a closet in the cafeteria. Materials were in good condition. The program would benefit from more center activities.

The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving. I visited the program during the morning hours of operation. The program was in ratio.

The program has a cell phone for communication. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number were in the binder. Emergency fire and tornado evacuation diagrams were not posted near any doors in the cafeteria or gym. There were written instructions near the doors. The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited the last four years as well and must be corrected immediately.

A daily schedule was not posted. This must be corrected. I was informed they were making a new daily schedule that they need to print off.

The children use two bathrooms right outside the cafeteria. The boys' bathroom has three urinals, two toilets, and three sinks. The girls' bathroom has five toilets and three sinks. The family bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations.

When children are sent to the bathroom a staff member should position themselves to watch the child go into the bathroom to provide supervision.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Fire and tornado drills are only being practiced during the afternoon hours. They must also be practiced during the morning hours. This was cited in last year's report also.

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 10/27/23.

The YMCA offers an afternoon snack. Snacks are provided by the YMCA. The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program does not have a refrigerator. There was cereal that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. This was cited in the last two years' reports also and must be corrected.

Breakfast is provided through the school and is not part of the YMCA program.

The program is using R-T-U Quaternary FCS Sanitizer on the food tables. I was informed the janitor is cleaning the tables. You must make sure that proper procedures are followed. Tables must be cleaned with soap and water prior to the sanitizer.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The children use the school playground. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment available. There are swings and other swinging apparatus available for the children. There are spinning seats, monkey bars and an obstacle course. There is a bench for the children who want to rest. There is a basketball court and a grassy area.

I reviewed ten children files while on 10/23/24 at the YMCA administration office. They were in excellent condition.

On 10/23/24 I visited the YMCA administration offices and reviewed one staff file. He needed an updated SING background check and he had an outdated mandatory reporter training.

The staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children in the gym and cafeteria. Mr. Alvarenga was terrific with the children. In the gym he was playing ball with children and in the cafeteria, he was playing a game with the children. Staff members encouraged children to "try" things and provided praise to children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mr. Alvarenga states the YMCA administration helps them out a lot. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Espinosa visit the program to check on them.

Mr. Alvarenga states the school is a good location. They have everything they need. They can use the playground, the gym and the cafeteria.

Mr. Alvarenga states when the children have a good week, they allow them to watch a movie and the school lets them use a projector.

Mr. Alvarenga states the school principal checks in with them to make sure they have everything they need.

The program is here for the community no matter what. They are here to serve the communities with any childcare needs they may have.

The program meets a need in the community to provide care for children before and after school. They are safe on the school site and do not have to transition to a new location.

The program has a great administrative team to overlook the school sites.

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.
Emergency fire and tornado evacuation diagrams were not posted near any doors in the cafeteria or gym. There were written instructions near the doors. The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited the last four years as well and must be corrected immediately.
Fire and tornado drills are only being practiced during the afternoon hours. They must also be practiced during the morning hours. This was cited in last year's report also.

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
There was cereal that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. This was cited in the last two years' reports also and must be corrected.

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 Joseph Espinosa as the on-site supervisor.

The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited the last four years as well and must be corrected immediately. You have received more than enough time to talk with the school and correct the situation.

*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.