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

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Dike Elem **Enrollment:** 13 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46284

Street: 330 Main St **City:** Dike Iowa **Zip** 50624 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 102 E G AVE, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Madyson Walter **Phone Number:** 319-989-2487

On-Site Supervisor(s): Makinley Walter **E-Mail:** mjohnson@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-30-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-14-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-24-2023

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 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	21	21
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: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-08-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the YMCA School Age Care at Dike Elementary in Dike on 09-30-24. Madyson Walter is the program director, and Makinley Walter is the on-site supervisor. Both took over their respective positions this year. Madyson is qualified for the position she holds based on her experience, education, and training. In reviewing Makinley's information she would not be qualified for the on-site supervisor role. The program is located in Dike Elementary and while it does have a very strong collaborative relationship with the school the program is overseen by the YMCA board. The program provides before and after school care to school age children only at this time. The program operates during the school year only with programming in the morning 7-8:15 AM, and the afternoon 3:15-5:30 PM. There are currently 13 children enrolled in the program though the program is open to all children who attend the school. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The classroom and program remain the same as observed in the previous visit. The program makes primary use of a single classroom with a traditional school room design of being a large open space with several individual student desk and seat units. Additional tables and chairs have been added to the classroom, some of which were included more as a matter of storage rather than programming design. Windows along the exterior wall provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. A secondary exit providing direct egress to the outdoors is present and is used as the primary entrance for the program. A third door opens to an adjoining classroom. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Evacuation notices that include diagram and written instructions were posted by the exterior exit but not the interior exit. As a reminder these are required by all exits for both fire and tornado evacuation and this was identified in the prior report as well. Several counters and cabinets have been installed which provide for storage of equipment and materials. A sink is present in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located outside of the classroom off the main corridor. The room has space to allow for a capacity of 21 children but the program does have access to other spaces such as the school gym and library. The room was observed to be clean with no maintenance issues observed in the classroom.

Due to the multiple use nature of the room the program is not able to establish traditional activity centers. There is a wall mounted media center, but otherwise the program maintains limited supplies of items such as art/crafts, small manipulatives, and table games in the storage cabinets which can be brought out for use when needed. The center should look to expand the available materials to include options such a books, dramatic play, large manipulatives, math/science, or music. A copy of the daily schedule was posted but not a copy of the planned curriculum. The lack of a planned curriculum has been cited in the past and the need to establish a curriculum plan was noted in the behaviors of the children during the visit. When arriving no materials were placed out for the children to engage with but rather they were allowed get materials out if they chose. Many of the children did not and as a result spent time engaging in behaviors that while not aggressive or significantly endangering were non the less inappropriate requiring Makinley to repeatedly warn and redirect the children. While the children would respond to the redirection they would quickly resume, or engage in similar behavior. Makinley did maintain a calm demeanor when addressing the behavior having a more established curriculum plan, and materials would help to provide more focus to the children's activities in appropriate play. In addition ratio was a concern on the day of my visit with 11 children present with only 1 staff member. While Licensing Standards does establish a 1:15 staff to child ratio for school age children there is also a requirement that when there are more than 8 children present a second staff member must be available on-site. Having a second teacher present in the classroom would provide for staff to be able to

support each other, and provide additional engagement and programming with the children. The lack of a second employee did result in a concern with regard to supervision where children were allowed to leave the room unescorted to use the restroom. While they would be of an age that they could reasonably use the restroom on their own it does create the potential for inappropriate interactions with other individuals who may be in the building, or a child eloping from the program.

While the center has established health and safety policies practice does need to be reviewed. General cleaning is performed by the school custodial department but the center does maintain cleaning products that include disinfecting wipes, and a bleach water solution to clean and disinfect toys as needed. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a risk to children are kept in storage where they are not readily accessible to the children. Handwashing practices do need to be reviewed with staff not washing their hands upon arrival, and children not washing their hands following restroom use. A first aid kit was present and while needing to be restocked did have sufficient materials to meet most common first aid needs are available. Makinley did ensure that the children did wash their hands prior to eating snack.

The program makes use of the school playground which has several climbing structures, swings, and areas where the children can play. Several elements of the climbing structures were observed to be in need of maintenance with one slide chute having loose hardware that was separating from the anchoring platform, and a climbing wall that had a number of points where the backing panel was cracked or broken around the anchoring screws used to secure the panel. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing beneath the climbing structures and has developed a hardpan layer. Use of the climbing structures should be restricted until such time that repairs have been effected and the existing fall surfacing material has been aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of loose material. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath the swings. The playground is partially enclosed and defined by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Shade is provided by the building and equipment. The program is also located next to a grassy area used by the school sports teams that the children have access to when those teams are not present.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but an afternoon snack is provided. Snacks are provided by the YMCA and generally consist of prepackaged single serving items. A copy the planned menu was not present on the day of my visit. If the center/staff do not know what will be provided in advance then a calendar of items that were provided needs to be maintained. Good food storage practices were generally observed but the center does maintain a small refrigerator that does need a thermometer to ensure that proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. Makinley did wash her hands and use a food service glove when portioning out snack.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings for No Smoking, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, Consultant Contact, and a copy of the License Certificate were present and posted where they would be visible to parents and visitors. While the center does obtain enrollment documentation from parents that includes emergency contact information, statements of health and permission to access school medical records, and authorizations these are maintained in a notebook which Madyson had taken to update resulting the center having no contact information for children. It is imperative that the center have and maintain current enrollment information for each child that attends the program that includes emergency contacts on-site. Staff files were reviewed along with the other site locations overseen by the YMCA earlier in the year. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates Emergency Drill logs had not been completed with the exception of 2 months from the prior year. It was reviewed that drills must be conducted and documented each month for both fire and tornado evacuation and this has been cited in the prior report.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Makinley did have a good rapport with the children and knew child individually and did seek to engage them in some activities such as talking about what they had done over the weekend, and art/craft activities.

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

109.8(2)f: Two adults are present more than 8 children are on the premises.
-- Only 1 staff member associated with the program was at the center with 11 children on the day of the visit.

109.9(2)a: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care.
-- Documentation had been removed from the center for all children.

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- Children were observed to not wash their hands immediately following restroom use.

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.
-- Documentation of emergency drills being conducted each month was not present. Required postings were not present by all exis from the room. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- Children were allowed to leave to use the restroom unescorted or with staff positioned to maintain line of sight.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The outdoor playground is not safe with broken equipment and insufficient fall surfacing. The center shall restrict children from using those elements that are damaged or which have insufficient fall surfacing.

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.
-- A copy of the planned curriculum was not present on the day of the visit. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

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.
-- A copy of the planned menu or calendar of served items was not present. Thermometers were not present in the refrigeration/freezer unit(s).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

NOTE: A Corrective Action Plan has been requested from the center to be submitted by 10-18-24 for review of approval. Failure to comply could be considered a willful disregard of Licensing Standards and could result in negative action against the center license,.

*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.