Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Spirit Lake Y Kids

Provider No.: 29244

Address: 2901 Hill AVE, Spirit Lake, IA, 51360

County: Dickinson

Director's Name: Kirsten Taylor

On-Site Supervisor: Andrew Eishenbacher

Phone Number: 7123300212

E-Mail: kirsten.taylor@okobojiymca.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/19/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2026 to 06/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/08/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General				73	73
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit on 05/19/26 and was able to speak with Director Kirsten Taylor. Ms. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and Physical Education for all grade levels, along with many years of experience working with children.

The Spirit Lake Y-Kids is a licensed childcare program provided by the Bedell Family YMCA, serving families in Spirit Lake school districts. Designed for school-aged children (ages 5–12), the program offers structured before and after-school care, as well as summer childcare options. Its mission is to support working families by providing a safe, enriching, and convenient environment for children during out-of-school hours.

There are 46 children enrolled in this program and 4 present at the time of my visit before school.

Students receive a snack and milk from the school, and the program follows CACFP guidelines.

During my visit, I observed all areas of the center, including classrooms, activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, the playground, and conducted an administrative review. I observed the Okoboji site on this date. The program is located within the elementary school and utilizes the lunchroom, gym, and playground. A variety of games, activities, homework assistance, and crafts are available to engage children. There are 41 children enrolled in this program.

The Summer Adventure Club is offered during the summer months for children ages 5 to 10. This program provides full-day summer childcare with a combination of educational and recreational activities, as well as opportunities for social interaction and personal growth. Children swim at the YMCA several times a week and participate in weekly field trips.

Monthly fire/tornado drills were completed along with playground inspections. Radon testing has been completed, and results were within normal levels. Good sanitary practices were observed throughout the facility. Yearly fuel burning inspection was not available at the time of my visit.

Financial assistance is available for families who need it, and applications can be easily completed online.

Program goals continue to focus on achieving IQ4K certification, demonstrating their commitment to ongoing quality improvement.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Being certified in IQ4K means a childcare program has met Iowa's state-recognized quality standards in areas such as safety, staff training, learning environments, and family engagement. Y Kids has been actively working with their Childcare Resource and Referral Consultant regarding IQ4K.

The Y's youth programs are built on four core values that guide how staff support and interact with children each day. Caring encourages kindness and helps create a welcoming, supportive environment. Honesty teaches youth to be truthful and build trust with others. Respect ensures that every child feels valued and treated with dignity. Responsibility helps children learn to make good choices and contribute positively to their community. Together, these values shape a nurturing space where children can grow and thrive.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

109.11(8)c
All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Ms. Taylor regarding her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance

She reports that the YMCA's approach to discipline is rooted in positive, respectful behavior management. Staff and volunteers consistently use praise, encouragement, and logical consequences to guide children's actions, modeling appropriate behavior and providing alternatives to misbehavior rather than punishment. She feels that staff have a good working relationship with one another and that if needed they speak up and indicate that they need a break if they are getting frustrated. This is monitored by Ms. Taylor as well as her on-site supervisors.

Please provide an email to consultant correcting those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards by 07/01/26

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

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At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 05/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.