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

Name of Center: Helen G. Nassif YMCA **Enrollment:** 4 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51939

Street: 207 7th AVE SE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52401 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 207 7th AVE SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

Director's Name: Tanisha Phelps **Phone Number:** 319-366-6421

On-Site Supervisor(s): Allyn Phelps, Jacob Perks **E-Mail:** phelps@crmetroymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-30-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 12-09-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			36	116	152
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 11-21-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The YMCA currently operates the following two childcare programs in Linn County: Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA. Specifically, Helen G. Nassif YMCA commenced operations on 11/7/22. The program is located inside the Helen G Nassif YMCA Cedar Rapids. The program operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. During the academic year, the program operates a preschool-age program with childcare component. During the summer, this program expands to offer both preschool-age and school-age summer programming. Current enrollment is 4.

YMCA - multi-site director is Tanisha Phelps. Ms. Phelps has been the multi-site executive director of all the YMCA childcare sites since January, 2019. Ms. Phelps has a BA degree in interdisciplinary studies, over 10 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Allyn Phelps has 6 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Jacob Perks has a MA degree in strategic leadership, over 5 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 10/30/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The YMCA currently operates the following two childcare programs in Linn County: Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA. The YMCA provides a variety of full-time and part-time childcare options to help meet the needs of families. YMCA accepts multiple funding sources.

YMCA has the following website for the community and families to access information about the program: http://www.crmetroymca.org/Cedar_Rapids/YMCA/Welcome/For_Youth_Development/Child_Care.php.

The mission of YMCA is "...to put Christian principals into practice through program that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all..."

Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA operate under a board of directors. Management and ownership of the YMCA childcares has remained consistent. This includes multisite director Ms. Phelps who has been with the YMCA childcares for over 5 years. Management continues to develop systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Ms. Phelps reported having a team of employees that work well together. Ms. Phelps talked about summer 2024 programming that included school-age children and how the team of staff really came together in planning fun activities including penny wars and handprint t-shirts.

Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. YMCA childcares have successfully navigated through various County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

Helen G. Nassif YMCA is located within the Helen G. Nassif YMCA Cedar Rapids facility. Building and grounds are maintained. Since the last review, the program installed new boilers. Helen G. Nassif YMCA has a strong partnership with Helen G. Nassif YMCA Cedar Rapids. YMCA custodial staff, YMCA board members, and YMCA administrative personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. There is an AED on-site Helen G. Nassif YMCA has numerous unique features including an on-site aquatic center which is accessible at times to the childcare children. The program utilizes wheeled carts/shelves for ease of programming in shared spaces. Ms. Phelps discussed future goals to update the program's handbooks and better address transportation needs.

According to the program's website, "...child care and early learning programs at the Y focus on holistically nurturing child development by providing a safe and healthy place to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships and build self-reliance through the Y values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility...The Helen G Nassif YMCA is proud to offer a high level of child care services to the Cedar Rapids Metropolitan area. From 3 years old to 5 years old , we strive to meet the needs of all families in our community. No one will be turned away due to the inability to pay..." The preschool program is currently being offered in their own separate classroom space focusing on kindergarten readiness with teacher inspired ideas. When school-age childcare operates on-site (e.g. summer break, extended school breaks), the program supports a "Junior Counselor" philosophy for the older school-age children. School-age curriculum includes reading activities (e.g. reading buddies), and when/if needed, homework/learning supports. Preschool and school-age curriculum also incorporates off-site field trip experiences (e.g. library story time, local pumpkin farm, local swimming pools, Palmer's Family Fun, Blank Park Zoo, Lost Island Theme Park, local bowling), on-site guest speaker events, large gross motor activities, themed days, and seasonal parties.

Helen G. Nassif YMCA continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities (e.g. Grandparents Week). The YMCA sponsors many community family/youth events including Parents Night Out event, Scholastic Book Fair event and "Trunk-or-Treat". Ms. Phelps discussed how the program also offers scholarship opportunities.

The YMCA collaborates well with many community partners including local small businesses, health professionals, local school districts, and other childcare owners/directors (locally and nationally). Helen G. Nassif YMCA receives full food service from Horizons Family Service Alliance provider. The program has a unique collaborative partnership with The Arc of East Central Iowa in which the YMCA childcare programs are able to access The Arc's outdoor inclusive play space.

YMCA promotes a "safe shoe" policy to help prevent foot/leg injuries as well as help ensure each child can easily participate in each day's activities.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. This program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff was observed providing one child with comfort and reassurance upon arrival. Area of study was Halloween. Preschool activities observed included large group discussion (e.g. good morning song, how feeling zone, calendar, letter "M", rhyming words, review of class rules). There was a group activity identifying various colors using English and Spanish. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, restroom break) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative environment. Staff were observed providing children with positive redirection when needed, meaningful discussion and encouragement. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.9(6). Record checks
- One staff file reviewed (LC hire June 2023) lacked documentation of Iowa record check result and federal record check result.

109.7. The center director, on-site supervisor, and staff counted as part of the staff ratio shall meet required staff training.
- One staff file reviewed (LC hire June 2023) lacked documentation of current first-aid, CPR, and mandatory child abuse reporter training.

109.9(1)d. A physical examination report. Personnel shall have good health as evidenced by a preemployment physical examination. Acceptable physical examinations shall be documented on Form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. The examination shall be performed within six months prior to beginning employment and shall be repeated at least every three years.
- Two staff files reviewed (LC hire June 2023, TK hire July 2024) lacked documentation of a current physical exam with

TB screening/testing on required from 470-5152.

109.9(3) Immunization certificates. Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates, provided by the state department of public health, shall be on file for each child enrolled as prescribed by the department of public health at 641—Chapter 7.
- One child file reviewed (AC) lacked documentation of this current documentation.

109.9(2)c. Information is available in the center regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child, including information regarding any professionally prescribed treatment. Information shall include a physical examination report as required at subrule 109.10(1).
- Two child files reviewed (AC, ES) lacked documentation of current physical examination.

109.9(2) Child's file. Centers shall maintain sufficient information in a file for each child, which shall be updated at least annually or when the parent notifiesthe center of a change or the center becomes aware of a change.
- One child file (AC) lacked documentation of an annual update of file.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.