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

Name of Center: Forest City YMCA **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22464

Street: 916 West I ST **City:** Forest City Iowa **Zip** 50436 **County:** Winnebago

Mailing Address: 916 W I ST, Forest City, IA, 50436

Director's Name: Faith Kahler **Phone Number:** 641-585-5220

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ava Pauley **E-Mail:** apauley@forescityymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-22-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-24-2023

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 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				100	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-12-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Forest City YMCA School Age program on 02-22-24 where I met with on-site supervisor Ava Pauley. Faith Kahler took over the Executive Director role in December 2023. Ava has been the on-site supervisor and lead of the program since 2000 and has attended on-going professional development training each year she has been with the center. The center operates out of the Forest City YMCA making use of several areas of the building. While the building is an open facility and other YMCA patrons make use of the facilities the program is operated out of classrooms that restrict access from those individuals that are not enrolled or approved caregivers. The program merged with the Hanson Family Life center and is overseen by a board of directors for that program. The program provides services for school age children for limited periods before and after school during the school year, and for longer periods of time during the summer. There are currently 42 children enrolled in the program served by 5 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout of the building and programming space remains the same as in prior reports. The primarily space utilized is an area that was previously designated as "The Game Room". The room is a large open space that has tables, a television, and access to a small kitchen area that does not have any appliances other than a refrigerator and microwave. Bathrooms are directly accessible from the room. The room has a separate entrance from the outside, and secondary exits from the room that lead to other activity spaces, and the gymnasium. There are windows along one of the exterior walls that provide natural light and a view of the outdoors. All areas were observed to be clean with no issues noted due to maintenance. Activity centers are created through the placement of low shelves and play structures which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

The available activity centers include options such as dramatic play, art/craft materials, media, large and small manipulatives, reading, and table games. The program also has access to the gymnasium, and pool. The program was observed during the before school hours of operation. Several children were sleeping, and others were engaged in quiet self-directed play. For those children that were sleeping mats and bedding were provided. The center uses a general monthly theme approach during the school year, and more focused weekly themes during the summer. A copy of the schedule and learning themes were posted on the day of my visit.

During the visit Ava was the only teacher present and the center did exceed the allowable ratio when an 8th child arrived at 7:30 and would require 2 staff to be present on-site. It is noted however that the school had announced an unexpected closure due to an illness outbreak which resulted in children attending that may not normally have done so, and the programing being open for the full day. Ava did contact another employee who identified they could come in but would not be there until approximately 8:30. Good interactions were observed with Ava providing observational supervision for those children napping, providing breakfast options for those that wanted it, and talking and playing games with other children.

The center does provide breakfast for the children that attend the before school hours and snacks are provided for the after school hours of the program. During the summer lunch is also provided and the program makes use of the community lunch program provided by the school. The breakfast menu does not change and consists of providing children a daily option of cereal, toast, fruit, and milk. The snack menu is more varied and a menu of items that were served is maintained. During

the visit it was noted that some of the food items would not be considered credible.
While the center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for reimbursement those guidelines are still required to be followed. Non-credible items included cereals with high sugar content, and pop-tarts. Good food storage practices were generally observed with a couple items not stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after being opened while other were or consisting of single serving options. Good food handling practices were observed with Ava using food service gloves when portioning out food.

Good health and hygiene practices were observed with the children washing their hands prior to having breakfast. The facility custodians do provide for the general cleaning and maintenance of the facility but the program also maintains spray bottles of a sanitizing/disinfecting solutions to clean as needed. Chemical cleaners, purses, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were maintained in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. The YMCA does maintain a large first aid kit stocked with items necessary to address common first aid needs and the program does have access to the kit.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. Staff files are now maintained at the program main office of the Hanson Family Life Center and are reviewed during the licensing visit to that location. A random selection of 20 child files were selected for review and of those 9 had not been updated in the past year. This may be due in part to the center maintaining information for children that are no longer attending the center. This has been identified as an on-going issue in the past visits. Failure to have current and accurate information can present a significant barrier to reaching parents in the event of an emergency situation. Inspection certificates were current and available for all required elements.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program provides a critical need in the community for families that need care options for limited timeframes for older children.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 9 -- NOTE: 3rd Year Cited.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
-- Non-credible food items such as cereals with high sugar content and pop-tarts need to be replaced with credible food items.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at 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 non-licensing year.

NOTE: Confirmation of the completion of file updates was requested to be provided by 03-15-24. Failure to comply with this requirement could be viewed as a willful disregard and 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.