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

Name of Center: YWCA of Black Hawk County Child Care **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22667

Street: 425 Lafayette St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50703 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 425 Lafayette St, Waterloo, IA, 50703

Director's Name: Mindy Sternhagen **Phone Number:** 319-234-7589

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mindy Sternhagen & Carlene Jorgensen **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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: 03-30-2022

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 X 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	0	0	20	47	67
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-21-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/14/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to YWCA of Black Hawk County Child Care in Waterloo. I met with Rachel Scott, a co-director. She has been with the center since 2000 and has previous childcare experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis is also a co-director. Ms. McCulloch-Lewis started with the program as an on-site supervisor in June 2022 and became the co-director in December 2022. She has a BA in social work, an AA in early childhood education and previous experience as both a teacher and director in childcare. Carlene Jorgensen is the on-site supervisor. She started with the program in September 2019 and has an AA in social work. The program employs eleven staff members.

The program primarily operates during the summer months. However, this location also cares for children during winter break, spring break and no school days. The school year program is referred to as “Playdays”. It is in the local YWCA building, which is a historic building that is over 100 years old. The summer program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm and serves children who are in preschool and older. There are currently 45 children enrolled.

The YWCA also offers before and after-school programs and wrap around childcare programs at thirteen elementary schools in Waterloo and Cedar Falls during the school year. These programs are also licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services.

The program is operating out of two rooms: the Yoodles (ages five and six-years-old) and the Yahoos (seven through twelve-years-old). The children also have use of the gym and the pool. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in the rooms.

The centers the program has available include library, blocks/Legos, magnets, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, STEM kits and music. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

During the summer months, the program has the same weekly theme in each room. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans based on the common theme. The children visit Gates pool each week and visit several parks in the area. The day of the visit the children were having a talent show. Each child got on stage to share with the other children and staff their talent of choice.

The Yoodles room has a telephone. They have use of the phone in the office and use of cell phones. The emergency numbers and the program’s address and phone number were posted in both areas. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program space. A daily schedule was posted and lesson plans were available for review in the entrance.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. A radon test was completed in November 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the reception area on the main level and in the control room on the

lower level. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 03/30/22.

The program does not have a playground but uses local parks. Staff members do check the parks for safety concerns each time they visit. The center also has use of the YWCA pool and gym for activities.

The center does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. The program contracts out for breakfast and lunch with the Waterloo School System during the summer months. Snack is prepared on site and is provided by the food bank. Meals arrive individually packed and disposable products are used so there is no need for dishwashing. The children go through a line cafeteria style to get their meals. The program has use of two refrigerators in the kitchen and there is a refrigerator in the Yoodles room. Thermometers were present.

For Playdays during the school year breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are provided by the food bank.

The program is using bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

There is bathroom located on the main level near the office. The girls' bathroom has two toilets, and two sinks and the boys' bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are also bathrooms on the lower level. The girls' bathroom has one toilet, and one sink and boys' bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The parent information is in the entrance of the program. The mandatory reporter information, the childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted on a bulletin board in the entrance near the children's cubbies. The license is conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member had an outdated Iowa background check (SING) and an outdated universal precautions training. This will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. During the talent show the staff members were encouraging and provided the children with praise. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations. Staff members offered the children choices. I observed one staff member help a child work through her emotions by maintaining a positive conversation with her and having her journal. She was patient and understanding. The staff members had great teamwork. The children appeared to enjoy their- time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Scott states the YWCA received $2000 to spend on supplies and centers for the YWCA site and each of the Y's Kids sites.

Ms. Scott states the starting rate for staff members was raised to $15. This has helped increase employment and they are setting the bar in the Cedar Valley.

Ms. Scott states they are committed to their community and the families they serve. They are giving equitable and fair access to resources for low income families.

The program serves a diverse population. They serve children with different ethnic backgrounds, abilities, economic status and social abilities.
Ms. Scott states her staff members are passionate and creative and they create a fun environment for the children. Ms. Scott states the staff members realize the program is about the children and she feels they are sending staff members out into the world better. She states they provide a lot of opportunities to the children that other programs do not offer.

They reach children at their educational level. She states a good percent of their children have special needs and qualify for services through Central Rivers AEA. They cooperate with AEA to provide these children to identified children.

the program is offered at a low cost to families and financial aid is available through United Way Funding. They also accept children on childcare assistance.

The children can use the YWCA gym and pool as part of their program day. They also frequently visit local parks and go to Gates pool each week. The program uses the YWCA buses for transportation. They are in the process of getting a third

bus.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

On 08/16/23 an administrative change is being made to name Mindy Sternhagen as the director for the program. Rachel Scott is no longer with the program. This change will be in effect for YWCA of Black Hawk County as well as the Y's Kids programs at Hansen, Kittrell, Lowell, Highland, Kingsley, North Cedar, Cedar Falls Lincoln, Cunningham, Lou Henry, Hudson, Irving and Lincoln Waterloo. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis, the co-director has also left the program. Ms. Sternhagen was previously a co-director for the program.

*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.