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

Name of Center: Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA **Enrollment:** 94 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18076

Street: 705 S Center ST **City:** Marshalltown Iowa **Zip** 50158 **County:** Marshall

Mailing Address: 108 Washington ST, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Ashley Nelson **Phone Number:** 641-752-8658

On-Site Supervisor(s): TBD **E-Mail:** ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-23-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-07-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-02-2025

Comments : Fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by Marshalltown FD, FF Jason Johnston

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			40	202	242
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-04-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 7-23-25. Ashley Nelson, director, was present throughout the visit.

Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA child care center has been in operation for over ten years. They provide childcare and preschool for ages 3-5, year round and after school care for school age children from 3:45 to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday. Fully-day programming is available in the summer for school-aged children. The program runs in the Y Cultural Building on the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA property. There are no recreational programs held in this building during the hours of child care. Child care is also provided to school-age children when school is not in session.

Ashley Nelson is the director over the child care programs. She has an AA degree in Child development. She worked in a child care center for two years before starting to work at the Y Preschool program. In 2008 she was promoted to director. The center is working to establish an new on-site supervisor.

All program space was observed to include classroom spaces and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Observation of each room: The center uses creative curriculum and "remind application to communicate with parents. The pre-school rooms are on the main floor and were observed to be clean, offering a variety of toys and play centers. The children were resting when this visit took place, even so staff were observed to be nurturing with the children who were content. Th The school-aged program occupies the Gym and has access to two rooms on the lower level. The school age program was working on a project. They were engaged and content. Staff were observed to be spread over the two rooms to ensure good supervision. The children in the school age rooms were also content and freely approached staff for assistance when needed. The staff were engaged in the group-lead and helping with the individual projects.

Nutritional Practices: The on-site kitchen is not utilized in the summer. The center enjoys a strong partnership with the community school; such that lunch is prepared and provided to the center by the school during the summer; whose menu is regulated by the Dept of Education and similar to that of CACFP. The center provides snack items and appear to be in-line with CACFP guidelines. During the school year, the program has access to an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff that prepare snack and lunches in line with CACFP guidelines. The on-site kitchen is located on the second floor of the building; No children are on the 2nd floor, so food is prepared and served family style by staff in the classrooms during the school year.

Health and Safety: Some staff are certified medication passers. The medication is kept secure with staff access by key and record of administration kept with the medication for the child. The facility has restrooms on the ground and lower level for program use. Emergency exit plans were observed to be posted conspicuously and drills were documented to have been completed. Radon testing was completed in September of 2023 and all was under the required safe level. The HVAC is inspected/maintained by the YMCA-YWCA facilities management. The center employs a professional pest control that treats the facility regularly. The center is situated to have pick-up and drop-off monitored and there are cameras in halls to assist.

Playground: The playground is located adjacent to the preschool rooms. There has been recent renovation to the playground decking. The playground is surfaced with rubber matting. The playground was observed with natural and building shade and to be in good condition. Playground checks were documented to have been completed timely.

Center Transportation: Transportation is provided by a school bus and school bus driver, when needed.

Administrative Records: The center has conspicuously posted information on mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license; with fire/tornado emergency plans also posted. Non-smoking signs were posted. Five child files were reviewed and contained all required information; Five staff files were reviewed with one new employee that had passed 3 months of employment however had not completed CPR/First aide or mandatory reporter training (this is unusual for this center; the center has many new staff for this summer).

The center continues to have a Board of Directors.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is able to use other programs offered through the Y such as swimming, dance.

The center offers a fun environment and their enrollment strong.

The center continues to have a strong relationship with the school district.

The center is considering applying for IQ4K (quality assurance) programming offered by the state of Iowa, the director is working to address some various criteria that make it difficult for this program to qualify, namely the pool located just adjacent to the program space, albeit in another building.

The center offers flexibility for parents to accommodate work schedules. The center offers part time care as well as drop in care.

The director was observed to be supportive and responsive to staff and children alike. The staff maintained good structure and the children were content.

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

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa’s training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions.Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
*one staff passed the three month employment "mark" and had not yet completed CPR/First Aid or Mandatory Reporter training (the program has enjoyed many new staff for summer, and training incomplete is very unusual for this program).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is a part of the food program with menus reflecting compliance with the CACFP guidelines.

The center last completed testing in September of 2023, all levels below 4.0 safety cut off.

The director indicated access to the required trainings and that she would assist the staff in completing training as required.

A full two-year license is recommended.

*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.