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

Name of Center: Spencer Family YMCA Dvergsten Center **Enrollment:** 190 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30277

Street: 1001 11th Ave West **City:** Spencer Iowa **Zip** 51301 **County:** Clay

Mailing Address: 1001 11th AVE W, Spencer, IA, 51301

Director's Name: Amy Kuehler **Phone Number:** 712-262-3782

On-Site Supervisor(s): Erika Buum **E-Mail:** akuehler@spencerymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-24-2025

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 12-05-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-28-2023

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	30	21	61	100	212
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 02-10-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A visit was made to the Spencer Family YMCA Dvergsten Child Care Center on 01-24-25 and visited with director Amy Kuehler and onsite supervisor Erika Buum. Amy has several years working at the program as the director of the school age program and has 5 years as the director for both childcare and school aged programs. This program is located in the YMCA facility in Spencer occupying several classrooms but also makes use of the other YMCA facilities. The center provides programming options with traditional daycare, preschool services, and Kids Kamp which provides programming for older school age children both before and after school and during the summer. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit. The center operates year around Monday through Friday and modified their hours from 5:30am to 6:00pm. The center serves children ages 6 weeks to age 12. The front door is locked and staff admit everyone into the building.

The daycare utilizes several designated classrooms for infants, toddlers, and preschool children up to age five that do not allow for intrusion by other YMCA patrons. The program has a 6 week to 6 month room; a 6 month to 1year room; and a 1year and 2 year old classrooms. The center also has a 3 year old preschool/daycare room and a 4 year old preschool/daycare room. Other facility spaces such as the gymnasiums, pool, and a lounge area are also available to the daycare children, and also serve as the primary programming spaces for the Kids Kampus program. The staff are able to close or section off areas of these spaces as needed when in use. All of the areas of the facility were observed to be well maintained and free of any safety concerns due to design, construction, or cleanliness. Every room and programming space used has secondary emergency exits.

There are 190 children enrolled in the program which 110 are school age children. The center continues in cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, engaging the children in activities, and sitting at the tables with the children during meals. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum and Gold assessments.

The center has the following areas throughout their rooms for the children to explore and learn: blocks, dramatic play science, library, discovery and puzzles. Children have access to a bathroom. Good room arrangement with centers throughout the room. Sufficient number of toys and equipment for the number of children. Center uses creative curriculum and has a daily schedule of activities posted. Displayed throughout the room were numbers, helpers list, picture schedule for the children, children's artwork and the alphabet. Staff are very involved with the children. The materials in the preschool had been selected so that they coincided with the learning themes that had been established in the curriculum. The center does have established curriculum for each class. It is recommeneded to remove bobby pillows from the infant room as they are to be used for nursing moms.

Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. The program contracts meals from the local Hy-Vee Catering service and some of the children in the preschool program bring their lunches from home. Children's lunches brought from home are refrigerated for proper temperature. Meals from Hy-Vee are transported to the center in insulated containers

designed for holding hot/cold temperatures, and refrigerators are available for children who bring a lunch and need cold holding facilities. The teachers do provide supervision at the tables when the children are eating. SMenus were posted. The center is not currently on the food program but they do follow the food program guidelines.

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test completed and within normal range. Annual heating inspection had expired and needs to be completed. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained.

The center playground is a large space that is divided into one area for older preschool and school age children, and one for toddlers. The main playground for the older children has several climbing units, swings, and a sandbox. Pea gravel is used for cushioning ground cover and has developed a hard panned layer in high traffic areas. A large covered shelter, mature trees, and the climbing structures provide ample shade options. There is also a very large open grassy field where the children can play games that are more active and require large amounts of space. The program received grant monies to help in updating the 2-4year to add a climbing structure and new fencing an the infant playground was relocated next to the 2-4 year old playground and has turf for surfacing. The playground was not reviewed at the time of the visit due to several inches of snow, therefore, will be reviewed at a later date.

Goals of the center: Amy would like to get on the IQ4K program level 1, more staff, and to add onto the building for more classroom space or build a new center building.

Strengths of the program are that staff have been with the program for several years and they have a good relationship with the children and the families that they serve. Good relationship with the community and with the Y. Program does fieldtrips for the school agers, apart of dental cleaning & floride program, and partners with the community.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center continues to be significant benefit to the community offering a wide range of services that include full range daycare, preschool and summer programming for older school age children.

Toys are at children's level and accessible.

Center displays children's art work in the rooms.

Good room arrangement throughout the center.

Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

Center has staff who have been with them for more than 2 years.

Center preschool is part of the preschool initiative program. The center also uses the Creative Curriculum and GOLD assessments.

Very positive interaction with the children

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

109.9(1)e: 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.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: Information was missing.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA,

Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended to continue to work with CCRR for support.

Please email licensing consultant confirming that those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards have been corrected no later than 03-24-25.

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

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

*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.