Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA Childcare - King

Provider No.: 52082

Address: 1849 Forest Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50314

County: Polk

Director's Name: Joelle Kleihauer and Lauren Slinker-Chaplin

On-Site Supervisor: Courtney Jolly

Phone Number: 5157292694

E-Mail: lauren.chaplin@dmymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 04/02/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/15/2025

Comments: Des Moines Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years for licensing requirements. Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	8:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	8:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	8:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	8:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	8:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General				100	100
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 4/2/26. The director and on-site supervisor were both present throughout the inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

YMCA Childcare - King Elementary opened in 1/2023 under HHS supervision. The majority of programming is held in the school's cafeteria, gym, and the outdoor playground area. The center serves school age children who attend this school. During the school year, the center operates after school from 2:45pm - 5:30pm. During the summer months, programming is 8:30am - 4:00pm. The directors of this center are Joelle Kleihauer and Lauren Slinker-Chaplin. Both individuals are or have been directors at other YMCA programs in the Des Moines Metro. Courtney Jolly is the on-site supervisor at this location. Courtney has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care.

During the inspection, all children and staff were in the cafeteria. For the majority of the time, all children were working on different art projects. Staff were spaced out an interacting with children. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

NUTRITION: The center serves a PM snack to children. The PM snack is provided by the school cafeteria staff. During the summer months, the center provides the PM snack to children. The school district provides breakfast and lunch to children. Children eat at the cafeteria tables.

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TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school district or they use YMCA vans/buses. Field trips are generally only taken during the summer months. For all field trips, children's emergency contacts and a first-aid kit are taken along.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is very large. The center uses two areas of the playground that has climbing structures. However, one area, only has grass for surfacing over the climbing structures and grass is not considered an appropriate surfacing fall zone. This grass area with the climbing structures should not be used until sufficient and appropriate surfacing can be installed.

For children with more difficult behaviors, staff focus on communication with each other (teamwork) and communication with the parents. A focus routinely discussed is staff working together. There are also visuals on the walls of the cafeteria that children can use as tools for how they feel.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This is one of several YMCA programs in Des Moines and the Des Moines metro. All programs operate in similar fashion, have same handbooks, staff are interchangeable as needed, etc.

The director and the on-site supervisor have a lot of experience working in child care. Both individuals are organized.

The center has visual "zones" posted that they use for emotional and behavioral feelings.

There is a lot of storage space.

The center has a good working relationship with other school personnel.

Weekly staff meetings are held. Staff have regularly scheduled meetings and trainings with other YMCA site staff throughout the year as well.

The center uses an online application for files called, Daxko.

The center works in collaboration with United Way and has other community supports as well.

The center participates in the program 5,2,1,0.

The director and on-site supervisor believe they provide a family-like atmosphere for the families and children they serve.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
One staff member did not appear to receive the minimal six hours of professional development training over the past year.

109.9(2)g: All files contain parent authorization for attendance at center-sponsored field trips and non-center activities. If an inclusive authorization form for activities is used, a copy is kept on file at the center.
One child had the authorization page not check boxed for activities, health statement, etc.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they are located in a school and only serve school-age children.

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I-Power was discussed at the visit. All staff have I - Power profiles. Staff should continue to upload their training certificates.

As mentioned at last year's inspection, it is recommended outdoor playground mats be purchased and placed at the bottom of slides. This will help preserve wood chip surfacing and depth. Also, the climbing structure area that only has grass underneath should not be used until sufficient surfacing can be installed.

It appears the kitchen staff and the center need to get more in sync with each other on PM snacks provided that match the actual food menu posted. The center has had to make a separate document to record what was actually provided to them to serve to children.

For summer scheduling, a full-day schedule will need to be posted.

It was noted that one staff member's CPR/First-Aid expired after 3/6/26. This person is scheduled to get recertified at or around April 16, 2026. This was initially scheduled, but the class was canceled per the director as there were not enough enrollments.

Date: 04/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.