Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 22554

Address: 669 S Hackett RD, Waterloo, IA, 50701

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Arwen Bendull & Brandon Bennett

On-Site Supervisor: Arwen Bendull & Brandon Bennett

Phone Number: 3192333531

E-Mail: BBennett@blackhawkymca.org abendull@blackhawkymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/21/2025

Licensing Period:

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/26/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] 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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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	18	19	37		74
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Sanders states the staff members really care about the children and she is proud of that.

Ms. Sanders states the staff members have improved on developing their lesson plans and how to tie them into things such as Second Step, Mighty Minutes and Intentional Teaching Cards. Staff members have worked with Angie Syhlman, the curriculum person from Head Start.

Ms. Sanders states they recently hired more staff members, which helps her not be in the classrooms as often.

Ms. Sanders states they created a “specials” and closing checklist. They are making sure things are thoroughly cleaned and certain items, such as door handles) are done twice.

Ms. Sanders states the teachers make two home visits and have two additional conferences for Head Start children. Private pay parents have two conferences each year.

The YMCA is under reconstruction and they are hoping to have it completed by July 2025. The childcare center is moving to a new area of the building. The rooms will be created specifically for childcare.

Ms. Sanders states their number one priority is children and staff safety.

The YMCA partners with Tri-County Head Start and it has changed and improved the entire dynamic of the center. The staff members are receiving more training and staff members are required to work toward obtaining their CDA’s. This has allowed staff members to see their own opportunity for growth and they see this now as a profession, rather than just a job.

The childcare program is in a secured area of the YMCA. The infant room and Montessori program are outside of this space but have locked doors for security.

The program accepts Child Care Assistance through DHS, Promise Jobs Funding is available while parents are at work or school and parents can apply for a YMCA Scholarship to help pay for childcare.

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The YMCA offers the children swim days, and they have regularly scheduled swim time at the pool in the YMCA.

The childcare has use of the gym, an indoor playground area and an outdoor playground area.

The program works with Central Rivers AEA to identify and assist children with special needs.

Full time employees receive benefits through the YMCA.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

An administrative change is being made to name Arwen Bendull as a co-director for this program. She started with the center in July 2025. Ms. Bendull is the primary director for this site. An additional administrative change is being made to change the capacity of the center. They are operating out of a newly constructed area within the same building. The fire marshal made his visit on 08/26/25 to approve use of the space. The capacity is as follows: Infants-18 children; 2's-19 children; 3's-18 children; 4 and 5's-19 children. TOTAL CAPACITY=74 children.

Date: 09/02/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Rebecca Frost

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**.