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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Irving Elementary **Enrollment:** 9 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46506

Street: 1115 W 5th ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **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): Madison Brissey **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org
mindy@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-13-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 09-08-2022

Comments : Compliance on 11/16/22

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 Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	30	30
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: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-20-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/13/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Irving Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Leah Blaine, the on-site supervisor this week. Madison Brissey is the on-site supervisor for the program, but she was not present the day of my visit. Mindy Sternhagen is the interim director for the program. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the program since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. There are two staff members present during the morning program and the afternoon program.

The program is in Irving Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria area but can also use the gym. The program has operated both before and after school in the past, but this year they are only operating a before school program. They operate Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. There are currently nine children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allows for free play and organized activities. Artificial lighting is primarily used. The centers observed include art, crafts, Legos, games, table toys, magnets and dramatic play. Centers are stored in a storage closet in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the morning hours. The program was in ratio. The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving.

The children use two bathrooms near the cafeteria and gym. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and the boy's bathroom has one toilet and two urinals. There is a birdbath sink outside of the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program uses a cell phone. There is a posting of emergency numbers with the site's address and phone number in the staff binder, which staff always have with them. Emergency numbers for the children were available in the first aid kit. Emergency fire and tornado procedure and evacuation diagrams were posted near all exits out of the cafeteria but there was only one evacuation diagram posted in the gym. The evacuation diagrams must be posted near all three exits out of the gym.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The fire and tornado drills have been practiced for the 2024-2025 school year. For the 2023-2024 school year there were no documented morning or afternoon tornado drills in January through May 2024. There were no documented morning fire drills in August, September or December 2023 and January, February April and May 2024. There were no documented afternoon fire drills in August, September or November 2023 or in February 2024. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced and documented every month.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. There was documentation for the 2024-2025 school year. There was no documentation for the 2023-2024 school year. Documentation must be maintained for two years to be reviewed during licensing visits.

Radon testing, a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the program is exempt from environmental assessments as a before and after school-age program located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/08/22, with compliance on 11/16/22.

The children are offered breakfast through the school. The YWCA does not provide breakfast. The program is not offering any food this year because they do not have an afternoon program.

The center uses Sani-T-10 Plus to sanitize toys.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board that is mandated to be brought out during the hours of operation. The parent board was not out when I arrived but this was corrected. The mandatory reporter poster, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

There was a daily schedule posted.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. The area is partially fenced in. The area uses woodchips for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment with slides and a rope obstacle course, and swings. There is a concrete area with basketball hoops. Benches are available. There are loose chains on two poles on the playground. Have the school remove these chains.

There is a second newer playground on the south side of the school. Turf is used for surface cushioning. There is one larger piece of climbing equipment with slides, rings and bridges. There are seven additional structures on the playground with other activities for the children. There is a ball hoop and a teeter totter. There is a bike path and a grassy area for the children.

Staff members were sitting at the tables and were actively engaged in play with the children. They encouraged them to use their imaginations during play. Staff members offered the children choices. They then moved to the gym and play a group game. All the children were engaged in the game. Staff members also participated in the game. They used positive redirection when necessary. They were engaged in positive conversation. The children appeared to enjoy themselves.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Blaine states the program is very beneficial for parents. She states this is especially true for the parents who do not have a good support system.

Ms. Blaine states the parents do not have to worry about transportation because the children remain at the school.

Ms. Blaine states the program is beneficial for the children. It sets them up for a good day by "lifting up" their moods.

Ms. Blaine states the program empowers children.

The program serves a diverse population. They serve children with different ethnic backgrounds, abilities, economic status and social abilities.

The YWCA continues to offer before and after school care in multiple schools in the community.

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

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
The fire and tornado drills have been practiced for the 2024-2025 school year. For the 2023-2024 school year there were no documented morning or afternoon tornado drills in January through May 2024. There were no documented morning fire drills in August, September or December 2023 and January, February April and May 2024. There were no documented afternoon fire drills in August, September or November 2023 or in February 2024. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced and documented every month.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
There was documentation for the 2024-2025 school year. There was no documentation for the 2023-2024 school year. Documentation must be maintained for two years to be reviewed during licensing visits.

V. 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 Madison Brissey as the on-site supervisor.

I am not changing the hours of the program because they hope to offer both before and after school care next year.

The YWCA needs to find a full time director. Staff members need full support and these before and after school programs need the full attention of someone. Staff members need to be able to reach out and contact a director who can answer their questions and has full authority to make decisions. Staff members need to feel supported. I have heard from many staff members through the 2024-2025 school visits that they do not feel supported and they want stability from leadership. I am seeing multiple missed fire and tornado drills over the last two years. Staff members are not being trained on emergency preparedness plans. This is unacceptable and changes need to be made.

*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.