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

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Becker Elem **Enrollment:** 39 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46523

Street: 1239 Sheldon St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 669 S Hackett Rd, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett & Bekah Stevens **Phone Number:** 319-233-3531

On-Site Supervisor(s): Caroline Loveless **E-Mail:** BBennett@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-09-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **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: 10-02-2023

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X 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	50	50
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:** 01-22-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/09/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Becker Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Caroline Loveless, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Loveless has an AA in an unrelated field. She has been with the YMCA since September 2010. There are typically two staff members present during the morning hours and two staff members present during the afternoon hours of operation.

Brandon Bennett and Bekah Stevens are the co-directors. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Ms. Stevens is the director of the ELC program. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director in Minnesota. Mr. Bennett is primarily in charge of the school age programs and Ms. Stevens primarily oversees the early learning center. Ms. Stevens has been employed with the YMCA since September 2020. She has a BA in Social Work and Spanish. Their offices are in the YMCA facility in Waterloo.

The program is in Fred Becker Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria. They also utilize the gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:30-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in preschool through sixth grade. There are currently 39 children enrolled.

The cafeteria allows for free play at tables and the gym allows for gross motor activities. Windows provide natural lighting in the cafeteria and artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include arts and crafts, Legos, transportation, library, games and magnets. Centers are stored in a closet in the cafeteria.

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

The children primarily use two bathrooms located in the hallway near the cafeteria. The boy's bathroom has two toilets and three urinals. The girl's bathroom has five toilets. There are two birdbath sinks outside of the bathrooms that allow for multiple children to wash their hands at one time. Handwashing procedures were not posted. You must post handwashing procedures. There are additional bathrooms in the school.

The program uses a cell phone. There was no emergency numbers observed. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number must be posted. This was cited in last two years' reports also. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams must be posted by both exits out of the cafeteria and near all three exits in the gym. This was cited in last four licensing reports and must be corrected immediately.

A daily schedule was not posted. This was cited in last year's report also. Please post this on the parent board.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year. There was no documentation for November or December 2024.

I stated in last year's report that you must complete a radon test immediately and this did not occur. A radon test is mandated every two years because you serve preschool children. I was notified on 01/22/25 that radon tests were being put up on this date.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted.

A carbon monoxide detector was on site in on the upper level of the building near the boiler. You must have a working carbon monoxide on the same level as the program. I was notified on 01/22/25 that a carbon monoxide detector was purchased and would be placed on the same level as the program.

The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/02/23.

The YMCA offers an afternoon snack. A snack menu was posted, but it was old. You must post a current snack menu each week. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program is not part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but is following the guidelines. Snacks are provided by the YMCA/NE Iowa Food Bank Iowa CACFP At-Risk Program and were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The program does not serve breakfast but children are allowed to bring breakfast in with them. You must provide a clean and sanitized table for children to eat breakfast if they bring it. The day of my visit a child was eating while playing. This cannot occur. Children can sit at a clean and sanitized table and eat and then they may play. The children can also eat breakfast through the school once they are released from the program.

There is a refrigerator on site in the staff room and a thermometer was present.

Staff members informed me they are not sanitizing the food tables because the school does it. The program must clean the tables with soap and water and then sanitize the tables prior to snack. You do not know how the tables are used prior to the start of the program.

The program uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables. They have also used Alpet D2 Surface Sanitizing Wipes on the table. These are provided by the food bank.

A first aid kit is on site.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. The area is partially fenced in. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There is a variety of climbing equipment. There are climbing walls, slides, bars, rings, stepping stones and a see saw. There are also grassy areas and a basketball court with hoops. Trees are outside the fence for shade.

While the children were in the gym, I observed children run out of the gym alone to use the bathroom or to get drinks. This cannot occur. You must always maintain visual supervision of the children.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. My contact poster must be updated with my new email address.

Staff members were observed to have good relationships with the children. Ms. Loveless has been at this site for many years. The children started playing with centers in the cafeteria and then moved to the gym. Before moving to the gym, Ms. Loveless met with the children and allowed them to share stories. She also talked with them about being respectful. Staff members provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Loveless has been with the program for many years. It is nice for the children to have this consistency.

Ms. Loveless states they have a good group of children. They listen and behave.

Ms. Loveless states the older children are good about playing with and teaching the younger children.

Ms. Loveless states this is an overall good program. They need to keep consistent staff members at the program with her, which is out of her control.

Ms. Loveless states the parents have a safe and secure place to bring their children.

The program serves a diverse population of children.

The program meets a need in the community to provide care for children before and after school. They are safe on the school site and do not have to transition to a new location.

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.
Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams must be posted by both exits out of the cafeteria and near all three exits in the gym. This was cited in last four licensing reports and must be corrected immediately.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
While the children were in the gym, I observed children run out of the gym alone to use the bathroom or to get drinks. This cannot occur. You must always maintain visual supervision of the children.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
The program does not serve breakfast but children are allowed to bring breakfast in with them. You must provide a clean and sanitized table for children to eat breakfast if they bring it. The day of my visit a child was eating while playing. This cannot occur. Children can sit at a clean and sanitized table and eat and then they may play. Staff members informed me they are not sanitizing the food tables because the school does it. The program must clean the tables with soap and water and then sanitize the tables prior to snack. You do not know how the tables are used prior to the start of the program. You must post handwashing procedures neat the sinks outside the bathrooms.

109.11(5): Telephone: Working non-pay phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting.List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone.
The program uses a cell phone. There was no emergency numbers observed. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number must be posted. This was cited in last two years' reports also.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
I stated in last year's report that you must complete a radon test immediately and this did not occur. A radon test is mandated every two years because you serve preschool children. I was notified on 01/22/25 that radon tests were being put up on this date.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
A carbon monoxide detector was on site in on the upper level of the building near the boiler. You must have a working carbon monoxide on the same level as the program. I was notified on 01/22/25 that a carbon monoxide detector was purchased and would be placed on the same level as the program.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
A daily schedule was not posted. This was cited in last year's report also. Please post this on the parent board.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
A snack menu was posted, but it was old. You must post a current snack menu each week.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period but you must provide me an email with information on how all the violations have been corrected.

I should not be seeing repeated violations every year. My expectation is that you read reports once you receive them and make corrections immediately.

All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.