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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Lou Henry **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46513

Street: 312 Rachael ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **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): Hannah Horn **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org
sroberts@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-06-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** X **No** **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 08-31-2021

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 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	45	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-19-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/06/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lou Henry Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Hannah Horn, an on-site supervisor. 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. The program has two employees present during the morning and the afternoon hours of operation.

The program is in Lou Henry Elementary. They primarily operate out of the cafeteria and gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:40 am and 3:40-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. There are currently 31 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allow for free play and organized activities. There is natural lighting in the cafeteria. Artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include art, dramatic play, Legos, games, Play-Doh, magnets and table toys. Centers are stored in a storage unit in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon program. They were in ratio. The number of children present at the program is always changing because of children arriving and leaving.

The children use two bathrooms in the entrance of the cafeteria. The girls, bathroom has six toilets, and two birdbath sinks, and the boys' bathroom has two toilets, five urinals and two birdbath sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in the girls' bathroom but must also be posted in the boys' bathroom. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program has a cell phone they use, and emergency numbers were programmed in the phone. Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were in the staff binder. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outside exits in the cafeteria and in the gym. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. There was not a fire or tornado drill documented for May 2023. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced and documented every month. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. 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 program that serves only school-aged children and located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/31/21.

The children are offered breakfast through the school upon release from the program. The afternoon snack is provided by the school and left in a milk cooler in the kitchen. A thermometer was present. Snack menus were posted and are located on the school lunch menu. The menu must be updated. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses Sani-T to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a portable bulletin board inside 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.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. The area is mostly fenced in. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. There are multiple pieces of climbing equipment located in the play area. Some of the items available include slides, a see saw, a merry-go-round, bars, a climbing wall, and a balance beam. They also had a stationary bus for the children to play on. There are benches available. There is a large grassy area for the children and a concrete area for the children with basketball hoops and funnel ball. Shade is provided by trees.

There is a gym available when the children cannot go outside.

The children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. One file did not have information with next of kin with emergency phone numbers. Parents must provide one person outside of themselves. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

On 10/24/23 I reviewed one staff file at the YWCA of Black Hawk County site. It was in great condition.

Staff members had great interaction with the children. They were dealing with a child who was upset and they were patient and tried to maintain the child in a calm manner. They offered the children choices for group games while they were in the gym. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members provided praise and maintained positive conversation with the children. Staff members greeted the parents as they arrived to pick the children up. Children were having fun and were disappointed to leave. Staff members appeared to enjoy their job.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Horn states they provide a structured environment and the children learn the routine quickly so the program goes smoothly. Ms. Horn states the organization is nice so children know what they are doing and what is expected of them.

Ms. Horn states the cafeteria and the gm provide a big space for the children, which is nice because it allows the children to spread out and play. The open space makes it easy to supervise the children.

Maleah Jones, the assistant the day of my visit, states she floats between YWCA sites and they are all structured and provide the children with the same routine. It makes it nice for staff members who float between sites to know the routine.

Ms. Jones states she is a new employee and all the on-site supervisors have been helpful in teaching her the ropes.

Ms. Horn states the administration team has talked about getting them more behavior training through the Career Center.

Ms. Jones states the YWCA tries to prepare employees who are going into the education field.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

An administrative change is being made to name Hannah Horn as the on-site supervisor.

*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.