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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Lincoln Elementary **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46507

Street: 302 Cedar Bend ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50703 **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): Ailani Gomez **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **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: 08-04-2020

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	12	80	92
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-21-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/18/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Lincoln Elementary in Waterloo. I met with Ailani Gomez, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Gomez is in school for elementary education. Rachel Scott and Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis are the co-directors for the program. Ms. Scott has been with the center since 2000 and has previous childcare experience. Ms. Scott has a BA in biology and philosophy. Ms. McCulloch-Lewis started with the program as an on-site supervisor in June 2022 and became the co-director in December 2022. She has a BA in social work, an AA in early childhood education and previous experience as both a teacher and director in childcare. There is two staff members present during the morning program and afternoon program.

The program is in Lincoln Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria and gym areas. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-9:00 am and 3:30-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. There are currently 16 children enrolled.

The gym is an open space that allow for free play and organized activities. Artificial lighting is used. The program also uses the library/media room in the afternoon to eat snack. The centers observed include art, library, Legos, games, table toys, and puzzles. Centers are stored in a storage closet in the gym.

I visited the program during the morning hours. They were 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 in the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has five toilets and the boy's bathroom has two toilets and three urinals. There is a birdbath sink outside of the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program has a cell phone they use, and emergency numbers were programmed in the phone and posted in the storage area. Emergency numbers for the children were available in the first aid kit. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the program doors and outdoor exits in the gym. They need to be posted near the outdoor exit used by the parents and near the exits in the library. A daily schedule was posted on the parent board.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. 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-age program located in a public-school building. A carbon monoxide detector was present in the gym. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/04/20.

The children are offered breakfast through the school once they are released from the YWCA program. The YWCA does not provide breakfast. The YWCA offers an afternoon snack. The snack is provided by the school. A snack menu was posted. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program uses a refrigerator that is in the kitchen

and a thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a portable bulletin board inside the entrance of 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 fenced in. They use woodchips for surface cushioning. There are multiple pieces of climbing equipment located in the play area. Some of the items available include slides, balance beam, teeter totter, a tunnel, monkey bars, and stepping stones. There are swings. There is a concreate area with basketball hoops and a grassy area. Benches are available and trees provide shade.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They state they enjoy their job and their time with the children. They offered the children choices and maintained positive conversation with the children. They provided praise and used positive redirection when necessary. They allowed the children to run around and have fun. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Gomez states the program is diverse and offers a lot of opportunities for the children and staff members.

Ms. Gomez states they try to get the children involved in activities.

Ms. Gomez states they offer Play Days at the YWCA on days when there is not school and offer summer care.

Ms. Gomez states the staff environment is good and the staff members enjoy working together at all the sites.

Ms. Gomez states the YWCA offers flexible schedules for the staff members.

The program is in a secured building.

The program meets a need for parents who require care for their children before and after school.

Ms. Scott states the staff focus on building relationships with the 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. This allows children to stay on site at the school and parents do not have to worry about transportation.

Ms. Scott states they have raised the starting wage for their employees to $15.00 per hour.

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

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 Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis as the new co-director.

On 08/16/23 an administrative change is being made to name Mindy Sternhagen as the director for the program. Rachel Scott is no longer with the program. This change will be in effect for YWCA of Black Hawk County as well as the Y's Kids programs at Hansen, Kittrell, Lowell, Highland, Kingsley, North Cedar, Cedar Falls Lincoln, Cunningham, Lou Henry, Hudson, Irving and Lincoln Waterloo. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis, the co-director has also left the program. Ms. Sternhagen was previously a co-director for the program.

*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.