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

Name of Center: YMCA Early Learning Center - Charles E Lakin **Enrollment:** 200 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49422

Street: 235 Harmony ST **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51503 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 430 S 20th ST, Omaha, NE, 68102

Director's Name: Cassie Wertz **Phone Number:** 712-322-6606

On-Site Supervisor(s): Joyce Clements, Jared Schmeckpeper **E-Mail:** cwertz@metroymca.org jclements@metroymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-26-2024

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: 09-13-2021

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	11	38	124	181
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 07-08-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made on 6-26-2024. The YMCA Early Learning Center - Charles E. Lakin opened on 12-11-2017. Cassie Wertz is the director, and Joyce Clements continues to be the on-site supervisor of the child care center, she has worked for the YMCA for ten years and Jared Schmeckpeper became the on site supervisor of the school age/summer program in March 2024, he has worked for the YMCA for six years. Child care is offered to children infant age to preschool year round and the Summer Day Camp is offered to school age children. I met with Joyce Clements and Jared Schmeckpeper during my licensing visit. There are 200 children enrolled (74 enrolled in the Early Learning Center and 126 enrolled in the Summer Day Camp).

Observation of rooms:
Early Learning Center - There are four program rooms - all program rooms were in ratio, the gym and the swimming pool are also used. Parents can pay extra and sign their children up for swim lessons. The teachers in the program rooms are responsible for the lesson plans/activities and Joyce reviews them. The center uses Creative Curriculum Gold. The rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment that is rotated frequently. The center uses the Procare child care software app to communicate with the parents and for the daily sheets. The children were having fun playing.
Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children.
Some plastic bags were accessible to children, this is a health and safety hazard, please move the bags. Staff were using baby wipes after diaper changing for washing hands - children's hands must be washed with soap and water. Joyce said she would train staff and they would begin hand washing with soap and water immediately.
Weekly newsletter are provided to parents.

The school age/summer day camp children use the community room, game room, playground, gym and pool. There were 69 children present today with 13 staff. The children were arriving back at the center from playing on the playground at Hoover Elementary School. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
The summer program has an average of 80 children a week. Each week has a theme with related activities on the lesson plan. The school age/summer day camp children are split into 5 groups by their age. The children swim on site on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. A variety of walking field trips are taken i.e. library, park, Hoover Elementary etc. Guests come in and provide fun and educational programs. The program also has a teaching kitchen.

Health and safety:
Both programs practice and document fire and tornado drills. Radon tests were completed in June/July 2023 and were in the acceptable range. Please refer to the handbook for information regarding radon and the frequency of radon testing.
The programs use Quat for sanitizing and disinfecting.
When is a child is prescribed medication the center follows the medication management procedures. Joyce administers medications for the child care center, other staff have taken the medication administration training.
The building is all electric.

Playground:

The child care program has a fenced outdoor play area with a fun variety of equipment - a large climbing structure, a low tree structure with a slide and blue dinosaur chimes. The playground has padded surfacing.
They also use the school age playground riding track and sometimes have snack under the pavilion.
The school age/summer day camp children have a playground, with several pieces of equipment, a shade structure with tables.
Monthly playground safety inspections were completed.

Transportation:
Daily transportation services aren't provided. The school age/summer day camp program takes 1 field trip that is combined with the other YMCA summer programs for field day activities.

Nutrition:
Early Learning Center - breakfast and lunch are catered to the center by Mid Day Meals, the daily snack is provided by the center. Monthly menus are provided. The center has a kitchen area for meal preparation.
During the summer the school age/summer day camp participate in the free breakfast and lunch program at Kanesville School (The breakfast is brought to the center), the program provides the daily snack. When children bring their lunch, please refrigerate them. Menus were posted.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in excellent order. Besides the required Department of Health and Human Services training staff are required to take ongoing training through the YMCA.
Child files were read and were in good order. Joyce has staff meetings every four months and has weekly staff notes. Joyce and Jared talk with their staff each day.
The center will apply for IQ4K.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Cassie Wertz became the director of the center.
Joyce Clements and Jared Schmeckpeper are positive and enthusiastic about their programs, they were very helpful during my licensing visit. Both programs look great and are a wonderful resource for the community. Staff had excellent interactions with the children.
The center will apply for IQ4K.

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

CORRECTED - 109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
Staff were using baby wipes after diaper changing for washing hands - children's hands must be washed with soap and water. Joyce said she would train staff and they would begin hand washing with soap and water immediately.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 12-1-2023 to 12-1-2025.
Off year licensing visit 6-26-2024.

Your approval fire inspection is due by 9-13-2024, they are due every three years.

*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.