Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Aldrich Elementary

Provider No.: 50251

Address: 2526 Ashworth Dr, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett

On-Site Supervisor: Garret Foster

Phone Number: 3192333531

E-Mail: BBennett@blackhawkymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/15/2025

Licensing Period:

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/27/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General				50	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/15/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Aldrich Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Garret Foster, the on-site supervisor. Mr. Foster started with the program in April 2024 but worked at the YMCA with children at different locations in Iowa for three years. He is in school working toward a social science education degree with a minor in special education. There are two staff members with the children in the morning and two staff members in the afternoon.

Brandon Bennett is the director. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director, in Minnesota. His office is in the YMCA facility in Waterloo.

The program operates out of Aldrich Elementary. The program was given permission to open on 08/23/18. The program serves school-aged children. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:50-6:00 pm. Every Wednesday the school has an early out and the program begins at 1:50 pm. There are currently 29 children enrolled. The program has set their capacity at 50 children.

The program primarily operates out of the cafeteria area but also has use of the gym and playground. Windows provide natural light. The centers observed include art, Legos, magnets, and games. Centers are stored in a closet in the cafeteria. Materials were in good condition. The program would benefit from more center activities. This was in last year's report also.

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

The program has a YMCA cell phone for communication. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted on the parent board. Emergency fire and tornado evacuation diagrams were not posted near any doors in the cafeteria or gym. There were written instructions near the doors. The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited for the last five years and must be corrected immediately.

The daily schedule was not posted. This must be corrected.

The children use two bathrooms right outside the cafeteria. The boys' bathroom has three urinals, two toilets, and three sinks. The girls' bathroom has five toilets and three sinks. The family bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/27/23.

The YMCA offers afternoon snacks. Snacks are provided by the YMCA. A snack menu is not being maintained. You must keep a snack menu showing the two creditable food items being served and have this information available for review during licensing visits. The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program does not have a refrigerator. There were cereals that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. This was cited in the last three years' reports also and must be corrected.

Breakfast is provided through the school and is not part of the YMCA program.

The program is using R-T-U Quaternary FCS Sanitizer on the food tables. This has a one minute dwell time. Tables must be cleaned with soap and water prior to the sanitizer.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. You must update my contact poster to show my new email address and the correct HHS website.

The children use the school playground. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment available. There are swings and other swinging apparatus available for the children. There are spinning seats, monkey bars and an obstacle course. There is a bench for the children who want to rest. There is a basketball court and a grassy area.

The gym is available when the children cannot go outside.

On 10/02/25 I reviewed one staff file at the YMCA. The staff member did not have documentation of fingerprints being completed. These are mandated to be completed prior to a staff member starting at the program. The staff member has been employed for longer than 90 days and did not have documentation of first aid or CPR training.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The children were engaged in free play in the cafeteria when I was at the program. One staff member was playing a game with children and the other staff member was playing cards with a child. After the game, one of the staff members moved around the cafeteria and sat with the different groups of children to talk with them and engage in positive conversation. Staff members modeled good manners. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They provided supervision when children had to use the bathrooms. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

Mr. Foster states the YMCA reaches into communities to provide affordable care for lower served areas.

Mr. Foster states parents can work and know they have a safe space to drop their children off at before and after school.

Mr. Foster states all the staff members he has worked with are good.

The program is inclusive . They make sure all the children feel included.

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.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions.Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
The staff member has been employed for longer than 90 days and did not have documentation of first aid or CPR training.

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
The staff member did not have documentation of fingerprints being completed. These are mandated to be completed prior to a staff member starting at the program.

109.10(13)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 evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited for the last five years and must be corrected immediately.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
A snack menu is not being maintained. You must keep a snack menu showing the two creditable food items being served and have this information available for review during licensing visits.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.
There were cereals that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. This was cited in the last three years' reports also and must be corrected.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

You must provide me with an email with information on how all the violations have been corrected. I should not be seeing repeated violations every year. All HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to remove Bekah Stevens as a co-director. Mr. Bennett remains the director.

An administrative change is being made to name Garret Foster as the on-site supervisor.

Staff members must have fingerprints completed prior to starting at a program with children. If you need information on the HHS record check process, contact me and I will provide this to you.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The staff member has been employed for longer than 90 days and did not have documentation of first aid or CPR training.

The program would benefit from more center activities. This was in last year's report also.

The evacuation diagrams with evacuation routes must be posted by ALL the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. This was cited for the last five years and must be corrected immediately.

A snack menu is not being maintained. You must keep a snack menu showing the two creditable food items being served and have this information available for review during licensing visits. There were cereals that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. This was cited in the last three years' reports also and must be corrected.

I met with Mr. Foster after my observations to discuss my areas of concern.

Date: 10/21/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.