Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Dike Elem

Provider No.: 46284

Address: 330 Main St, Dike, IA, 50624

County: Grundy

Director's Name: Brandon Bennet

On-Site Supervisor: Reese Madren

Phone Number: 3199892487

E-Mail: BBennett@blackhawkymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/21/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/24/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [ ] Full
- [X] 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
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	21	21
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the YMCA School Age Care at Dike Elementary in Dike on 10-21-25. Brandon Bennet is the program director, and Samantha Streets is the on-site lead teacher. Samantha identified that her last day with the program would be the coming Friday and that Reese Madren would be taking over as the on-site lead. Reese identified that he has been working with the Blackhawk YMCA at another afterschool program and would be taking over the oversight of the Dike location. The program is located in Dike Elementary and while it does have a very strong collaborative relationship with the school the program is overseen by the Blackhawk County YMCA board. The program provides before and after school care to school age children only at this time. The program operates during the school year only with programming in the morning 7-8:15 AM, and the afternoon 3:15-5:30 PM. There are currently 14 children enrolled in the program though the program is open to all children who attend the school. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The classroom and program remain the same as observed in the previous visit. The program makes primary use of a single classroom with a traditional school room design of being a large open space with several individual student desk and seat units. Additional tables and chairs have been added to the classroom, some of which were included more as a matter of storage rather than programming design. Windows along the exterior wall provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. A secondary exit providing direct egress to the outdoors is present and is used as the primary entrance for the program. A third door opens to an adjoining classroom. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Several counters and cabinets have been installed which provide for storage of equipment and materials. A sink is present in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located outside of the classroom off the main corridor. The room has space to allow for a capacity of 21 children but the program does have access to other spaces such as the school gym and library. The room was observed to be clean with no maintenance issues observed in the classroom.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Due to the multiple use nature of the room the program is not able to establish traditional activity centers. This paired with a lack of a planned curriculum resulted in the program being very chaotic as children arrived and were largely left to entertain themselves. Initially children chose to engage in inappropriate and dangerous behavior such as climbing on desks and chairs, and engaging in rough housing and antagonizing of peers that while did not result in conflict had a high potential to do so. The staff did work to direct children from climbing on furniture, and some children eventually got out some lego's, and others began to play a game of "Hangman" which evolved into a larger group activity. The teachers then took the group to the gymnasium where they engaged in a teacher lead game of tag. It has been identified in prior reports that the center has lacked an established curriculum. Having an established schedule and curriculum do help to provide a stable framework

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for the staff and children that can help to reduce behavioral problems. This would allow teachers to plan what materials and supplies would be needed and what activity centers to set up in preparation of the children's arrival. It also provides structure that allows the children to focus their activities with acceptable play options. The staff were engaged with the children both in terms of working to redirect the children when they were engaging in appropriate behavior, and in general interaction such as joining the game of tag later when playing as a group in the gym. It was noted that this was the first day Reese had been at the center, and despite not having a prior relationship with the children was able to effectively engage with them. Both Reese and Samantha were very positive throughout the time of the visit. Both used effective behavior management approaches of redirecting the children, setting limits, and implementing consequences such as time out for limited periods of time.

While the center has established health and safety policies practice does need to be reviewed. General cleaning is performed by the school custodial department but the center does maintain cleaning products to clean and disinfect equipment and toys as needed. Chemical cleaners, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a risk to children are kept in storage where they are not readily accessible to the children. While the center did have products that allow for cleaning table surfaces were not sanitized prior to snack service. Staff did direct children to wash their hands prior to snack service. A first aid kit was present but needed to be restocked both for some basic materials such as adhesive bandages, but also for items such as cold packs and a sling. While the center was ratio during the visit with 2 staff present it was reported that Samantha is typically the only employee present with a general daily attendance that exceeds 8 children. While the staff to child ratio for school age children is 1:15 licensing does require that when 9 or more children are present 2 staff must be available on-site. The second staff member can be a volunteer such as a school employee who would be available at the building but not necessarily in the classroom. This again has been an issue that has been cited in the past. Supervision was an issue during the visit with staff allowing children to leave the classroom to use the restroom unsupervised. While the children are of an age where they would not require assistance with toileting centers are required to provide close and careful supervision which is interpreted as within direct line of sight and sound. Children frequently will seek out opportunities where they are not supervised such as requesting to use the restroom to elope from the center, or otherwise engage in inappropriate behavior. This is again an issue that has been cited in prior reports. In addition the center does not have a well defined process for signing children in/out of the program. While Samantha did know each child and greeted them by name as they arrived there was not a list maintained of which children were present. Additionally when parents arrived children were sent out to meet their parent rather than having the parents come into the center to sign children out. This does create a strong potential for a child to be "lost" due to questions about who was to have custody and supervision of the child. During the visit a situation occurred which highlighted the potential for problems when a child announced that a peer's parent had driven up, but it was determined that it was not the child's parent. This could have resulted in the child leaving the program and getting locked out, or getting into a vehicle with an unknown and/or unapproved pick-up person.

The program makes use of the school playground which has several climbing structures, swings, and areas where the children can play. In addition the program also has access the gymnasium for when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play. While the school is responsible to maintain the equipment staff do still need to assess the area and equipment for damage and restrict children from using those elements as needed.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but an afternoon snack is provided. Snacks are provided by the YMCA and generally consist of prepackaged single serving items. A copy the planned menu was not present on the day of my visit. If the center/staff do not know what will be provided in advance then a calendar of items that were provided needs to be maintained. Snack options on the day of the visit included Cheerio's cereal, triscuit crackers, and fruit gummies. Fruit gummies are not considered credible snack options, and providing children with options from two separate food groups is required. Food storage practices do need to be reviewed given that while many of the snack options are prepackaged single serving items there were bulk items that were not placed in air tight sealable food grade containers after they had been opened. This can result in concerns for spoilage, as well as being an attractant to insects and rodents.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings for No Smoking, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, Consultant Contact, and a copy of the License Certificate were present and posted where they would be visible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for Emergency Evacuation that include both written and diagram instructions, Emergency Contacts, and planned curriculum were missing, incomplete, or had outdated information. In reviewing child files the center had no contact information for 8 children that were currently enrolled, had no written response plans for identified health concerns such as allergies, and only 2 children had a parental statement of health both of which were from the previous year's enrollment. It is imperative that the center have and maintain current enrollment information for each child that attends the program that includes emergency contacts on-site. Attempts were made to review staff files during a visit to the YMCA

central office in Waterloo earlier in the year but those records could not be accessed due computer systems not being available. A request was made for the employee who maintains those records to forward them to this worker, and later a request was made from Brandon to forward the information by 11-14-15 which was not received. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates Emergency Drill logs had not been completed and this was also cited in the prior visit.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required:Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is presentAt least one staff is present in every room where children are resting.If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained.Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained.When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present.For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center's hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center.Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded.
-- Information was provided that the center has had only 1 staff member present since the start of the current school/programming year with an average daily child attendance of 12-14 children. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

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 check. Copy 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.
-- Documentation of employee records was unavailable at the time of the visit. A request for employee records had been made with information to be returned by 11-14-25 and that documentation has not been received as of the time of the completion of this report.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Documentation of employee records was unavailable at the time of the visit. A request for employee records had been made with information to be returned by 11-14-25 and that documentation has not been received as of the time of the completion of this report.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Documentation of employee records was unavailable at the time of the visit. A request for employee records had been made with information to be returned by 11-14-25 and that documentation has not been received as of the time of the completion of this report.

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.
-- Number not in compliance: 8 During the visit there were 8 children identified as attending the center who did not have any enrollment or contact information present.

109.9(2)j: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions.
-- Number not in compliance: 14 During the visit only 2 children had documentation of a parental statement of health, and both of those were from the previous enrollment year.

109.9(2)k: Any child with special health needs, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
-- There were children reported to have identified allergies none of which had any allergy response plan. Response plans are required for all children with identified health concerns.

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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.
-- Emergency evacuation plans were not present by all exits from the programming space. In addition evacuation notices did not include diagram instructions, and the information for tornado evacuation was covered by another posting. Emergency drills were not being conducted and/or logged for each month as required. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- Children were allowed to leave the programming space unattended and unsupervised to use restrooms. While children are of an age that they would not require assistance with toileting careful supervision is interpreted as within direct line of sight and sound. If staff are unable to leave the room they should at a minimum step to a position where they can continue to supervise the children in the programming room, and observe that children using the restroom make it to and from that location safely.

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 copy of the planned curriculum was not posted on the day of the visit. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

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.
-- The snack served on the day of the visit included a non-credible option of fruit gummy snacks. Alternative snack options were also from the same Grains food group and credible snack options from 2 different food groups is required. Bulk packaged items were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal had been broken.

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

A phone conversation was held with Brandon Bennet on 11-03-25. Brandon stated that they had hired a second staff member for the center. Forms and documents were e-mailed to Brandon for first aid kit requirements, and staff file review and during the phone conversation it was requested to return the staff file review documentation by 11-14-25.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A provisional license is recommended at this time this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 11/19/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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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**.