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

Name of Center: Y's Kids at Hansen **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46279

Street: 616 Holmes DR **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 425 Lafayette ST, Waterloo, IA, 50703

Director's Name: Sherie Roberts **Phone Number:** 319-234-7589

On-Site Supervisor(s): Grace Rosin & others **E-Mail:** ywcakids@ywcabhc.org sroberts@ywcabhc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-18-2023

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: 06-08-2023

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	60	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-30-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/18/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Y's Kids at Hansen Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Elise Wehr, the on-site supervisor in the afternoon. Grace Rosin is the on-site supervisor in the morning. Mindy Sternhagen is the director for the program. Ms. Sternhagen has been with the YWCA since 2002. She has a BA in Elementary Education and her CDA. Sherie Roberts was recently hired as the new director of the Y's Kids programs and her start date was 10/23/23. Ms. Sternhagen is training her. Ms. Roberts has a BA in public relations and a MA in history. Ms. Roberts worked in the Waterloo Community School District for 4.5 years as a paraeducator, family support worker and behavior focus coach. She was the executive director of two non-profit organizations. The program typically has two staff members in the morning and two staff members in the afternoon.

The program is in Hansen Elementary. They primarily operate out of the gym and cafeteria areas. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:45-6:00 pm. On Wednesdays the afternoon program starts at 1:50 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 23 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allow for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is available in the cafeteria and artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include art, table toys, magnets, Legos, magnets and balls. Centers are stored in a closet in the gym. Materials were in good condition.

I visited the program during the afternoon hours of operation. The program was in ratio the day of my visit.

While I was present a child was sent to the bathroom alone and unsupervised. The bathroom is located outside of the gym in the hallway. Additionally, in the gym there were mats set up to surround an area where children were playing. This blocked the view so staff members could not see the children. You must always maintain visual contact of the children. They should not be behind mats and they cannot be sent to the bathroom unsupervised. The staff member should stand outside the door of the gym and watch the child come and go to the bathroom or take enough children to the bathroom so that both areas remain in ratio.

The program has a cell phone they use and emergency numbers are in a binder and posted in the storage closet. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. Post the diagram near the door in the gym that leads to the cafeteria. 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 program located in a public-school building. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 06/08/23.

The YWCA offers breakfast to the children in the morning. The YWCA also serve an afternoon snack. There was a

breakfast and snack menu available, but it was not posted because it was not current. The program should be provided updated menus to post. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program uses a refrigerator that is in the storage closet in the gym and a thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The program uses Sani-T to sanitize the food tables. I discussed the process of cleaning and sanitizing the tables and proper procedures are followed.

The children primarily use two bathrooms located down the hall across from the gym. The girl's bathroom has seven toilets and three sinks. The boy's bathroom has three toilets, four urinals and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board, but the board is being kept in the closet where no one can see it. Ms. Wehr states the parents do not enter the building. They call the program's cell phone and a staff member takes the child out to them. A parent board is mandated so I recommend putting it inside the entrance of the school. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted on the board. The license is conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning under the swings. Please rake the woodchips under the swings on a routine basis as there are big gaps under the swings. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning under the climbing equipment. There are monkey bars, rings, slides, a climbing wall, bridges and stepping stools. There is a large grassy area for the children.

The children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. They were in great condition.

On 10/24/23 I reviewed one staff file at the YWCA of Black Hawk County site. The staff member had an outdated Iowa background check (SING).

Staff members worked well together. They were in the gym and the staff members were actively playing games with the children. They maintained positive conversation and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members moved around the space to interact with all the children. They played a game where they were working on counting with the children. The children appeared to have fun in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Wehr states the children all play with one another and they get along with each other.

Ms. Wehr states all the staff members are involved and play with the children.

Ms. Wehr states they do not have any behavior issues with the children, making it easier on the staff members.

Ms. Wehr states the program just received a lot of new toys and activities at the beginning of the school year. They offer a lot of activities so children do not get bored.

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

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.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
While I was present a child was sent to the bathroom alone and unsupervised. The bathroom is located outside of the gym in the hallway. Additionally, in the gym there were mats set up to surround an area where children were playing. This blocked the view so staff members could not see the children. You must always maintain visual contact of the children. They should not be behind mats and they cannot be sent to the bathroom unsupervised. The staff member should stand outside the door of the gym and watch the child come and go to the bathroom or take enough children to the bathroom so that both areas remain in ratio.

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 Sherie Roberts as the new director of the program. She started with the program in October 2023.

*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.