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

Name of Center: Marion YMCA **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51491

Street: 3740 Irish Drive **City:** Marion Iowa **Zip** 52302 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 207 7th AVE SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

Director's Name: Tanisha Phelps **Phone Number:** 319-366-6421

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jacob Perks, Allyn Phelps **E-Mail:** phelps@crmetroymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-18-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 06-11-2021

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				150	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-28-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The YMCA currently operates the following two childcare programs in Linn County: Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA. Specifically, Marion YMCA commenced operations on 6/16/2021. The program is located inside the Marion YMCA. The program has the ability to operate year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm but mostly operates summer only. During summer 2024, the program is open 10 weeks from 6/10/2024 to 8/16/2024. The program provides full-time and part-time childcare to school-age children and accepts a variety of funding sources. Current enrollment is 80.

YMCA - multi-site director is Tanisha Phelps. Ms. Phelps has been the multi-site executive director of all the YMCA childcare sites since January, 2019. Ms. Phelps has a BA degree in interdisciplinary studies, experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Allyn Phelps has experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Jacob Perks has a MA degree in strategic leadership, has experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 6/18/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The YMCA currently operates the following two childcare programs in Linn County: Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA. The YMCA provides a variety of full-time and part-time childcare options to help meet the needs of families. YMCA accepts multiple funding sources.

YMCA has the following website for the community and families to access information about the program: http://www.crmetroymca.org/Cedar_Rapids/YMCA/Welcome/For_Youth_Development/Child_Care.php.

The mission of YMCA is "...to put Christian principals into practice through program that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all..."

Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA operate under a board of directors. Management and ownership of the YMCA childcares has remained consistent. This includes multisite director Ms. Phelps who has been with the YMCA childcares for over 5 years. Management continues to develop systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Ms. Phelps reported having a solid team of staff which operate like a "well-oiled machine". Ms. Phelps indicated the Marion YMCA team of employees are seasoned and work well together.

Marion YMCA and Helen G. Nassif YMCA have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. YMCA childcares have successfully navigated through various County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

Marion YMCA is located within the YMCA Marion facility. Building and grounds are maintained. Marion YMCA has a strong partnership with the YMCA. YMCA custodial staff, YMCA board members, and YMCA administrative personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. There is an AED on-site. Marion YMCA has numerous unique features including an on-site aquatic center which is accessible at times to the childcare children. The program utilizes wheeled carts/shelves for ease of programming in shared spaces. Ms. Phelps discussed future goals including establishing an outdoor play area beyond a section of grass adjacent the building and addressing transportation needs.

YMCA childcare supports a "Junior Counselor" philosophy for older childcare children. Daily curriculum supports reading activities (e.g. reading buddies), and when/if needed, homework/learning supports. Curriculum also incorporates off-site field trip experiences, on-site guest speaker events, large gross motor activities, themed days, and seasonal parties. Summer 2024 field trips are scheduled to include trips to local parks, local swimming pools, bowling alley, zoo and Lost Island. In YMCA facilities where aquatic areas are available, the YMCA has a history of offering on-site summer swimming lessons for childcare families choosing to take advantage of this enrichment opportunity.

Marion YMCA continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Phelps talked about being proud of how the program continues to grow each year, how the program experiences full enrollment and about the positive feedback received by families.

The YMCA collaborates well with many community partners including local small businesses, health professionals, local school districts, and other childcare owners/directors (locally and nationally). The YMCA sponsors many community youth events including Parents Night Out event and Scholastic Book Fair event.

YMCA promotes a "safe shoe" policy to help prevent foot/leg injuries as well as help ensure each child can easily participate in each day's activities. Management discussed how the program continues to utilize a color system for children and staff to break into smaller groups by same color arm bands, back packs and so on.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. This program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families upon arrival. Activities included self-selected activities (e.g. coloring/journals, card games, large gross motor indoor gym games), small group circle experiences (e.g. question of the day, "Duck, Duck, Goose") and outdoor play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.4(3)b Required postings
- Post updated daily schedule, lesson plan/curriculum, food/snack menu (with any substitutions noted).

109.9(1)d: 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.
- Two staff files reviewed (TY, EG) lacked documentation of physical exam with TB screening/testing.

109.9(1)e: 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.
- One staff file reviewed (EG) lacked documentation of annual professional growth hours.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of an annual all fuel-burning appliance was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.
- There was no UL Standard 2034 carbon monoxide detector found in use on any floor.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is a partial no outlet roadway leading from the front parking lot down the side of the building adjacent the green space used as the childcare outdoor space. Ensure every time children access or cross the no outlet roadway to the open green space, staff accompany the children. Also, heavy duty traffic cones shall be obtained and used to discourage access to the no outlet roadway when the childcare children are accessing the green space.

Increase program supplies. Children shall have access to a plethora of games, puzzles, building supplies, crafts, etc. that have all the pieces to be able to experience the joy of child play. Material refreshing and replacement is an ongoing monthly childcare budget need.

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The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.