Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Cottingham & Butler

Provider No.: 52891

Address: 799 Locust St, Dubuque, IA, 52001

County: Dubuque

Director's Name: Christina Berger

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5632161254

E-Mail: 3011@nhacademy.net

HHS Visit Date: 10/14/2025

Licensing Period: 06/16/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/02/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	72	42	88		202
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced first licensing visit was completed at this new center on 10/14/25. The center was first visited on 6/3/25 and given permission to open without a license effective 6/16/25. Present for the licensing visit was the approved center director, Christina Berger, and other staff. Christina accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the majority of the visit. This center is for profit and is one of eight New Horizon Academy centers in Iowa. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director who oversees all of the Iowa locations. The center serves children age infant through five years. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program.

The center includes 13 program rooms assigned for various age groups. Some of the rooms were not yet in use at the time of the licensing visit. The center includes an additional large room on the main floor called the "great room" used for indoor gross motor activities. The center includes a large central space on the second floor called the "steam room" that is used as multi-purpose activity space for various groups of children at various times of the day. Program rooms were observed to be spacious and to offer an excellent variety of choices of activities with new furnishings and plenty of accessible materials. All program rooms include sinks within the program rooms. Toddler and older rooms include adjacent restroom areas. Diaper stations are located in all but the two prek rooms. All program space was observed.

The center serves breakfast, lunch, and snack. The center does not participate in the CACFP. All meals and snacks are prepared on site by the kitchen staff person in the center's kitchen. The kitchen is designed well and is organized.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is new and was designed specifically as a child care center. Rooms are bright with windows, are spacious, and include all new furnishings and materials. Materials to support program activities are abundant and are accessible to the children in all program rooms. The children's various crafts and projects are posted throughout the center. There is a strong focus on curriculum at this center, and the center employs a "curriculum coordinator" to assist in writing lesson plans and to provide direct coaching to the staff. Activity planning is quite detailed. Each room posts "Our Learning Journey" board which showcases the month's activities including photos of the children participating in the activities and the projects they created. The STEAM area is large and includes many additional materials and centers that support science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics activities. The center is colorfully and thoughtfully decorated throughout to present a child and family friendly environment. The center includes a video monitoring system. Staff and child files and other required licensing documentation were found to be organized.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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109.10(1): Medications.
1. Medications present without current completed parent authorization form.
2. Emergency medication present without the emergency action plan as is required.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
1. Items labeled to keep out of reach of children, plastic bags accessible under sink cabinet in infant A room.
2. Items labeled to keep out of reach of children accessible in cabinet in the great room.
3. Diaper ointments accessible to children in drawer in the twos A room.

109.12(4)b: Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area.
1. Diaper changing procedures not followed as observed in the twos A room. Review procedures as they are posted with staff.

109.13(5)c: Sanitary methods are used for dishwashing sufficient to prevent transmission of disease.
1. Sanitary methods for dish washing are not used for dishes and bottles being washed by staff in the infant rooms. Additionally staff in ratio shall not be responsible for washing dishes.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Consultation has been provided to the center regarding the rules for combining different age groupings of children and what is allowed and when. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. Ensure food and food service items are only set on non porous surfaces that have been cleaned and sanitized immediately prior.
2. Ensure menu substitutions are noted on the posted menu.
3. Ensure communicable disease notices are posted in a location that is highly visible to all regardless of which room(s) the illness directly impacted.
4. Diaper procedure posting is needed at the diaper station in the preschool A room.
5. Ensure items are not set on cots.
6. Emergency plan postings are needed at door to hallway from great room, infant A, and infant B rooms.

A full license is issued. Please address the violations and concerns noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 11/10/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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**.