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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - WDM **Enrollment:** 126 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50394

Street: 9040 University AVE **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3405 Annapolis LN N STE 100, Plymouth , MN, 55447

Director's Name: Nichelle Hoey **Phone Number:** 515-412-9915

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kris Fleanor **E-Mail:** 3002@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 02-27-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-27-2023

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 02-22-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	48	24	110		182
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 03-06-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year visit was completed 2-27-24. The director, Nichelle Hoey was present through the visit.

New Horizon Academy in West Des Moines was given Permission to Open on 11/26/18. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota and has daycare centers in several states. Two other centers have opened in the metro area, this is one of three New Horizon centers. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all of the center in Iowa. Nichelle Hoey became the director for this center 12-2023, She has previous director and assistant director experience along with a Bachelor's degree in Family Services. Kris Fleanor is the assistant director. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

New Horizon Academy-WDSM serves children ages 6 weeks up to preschool age, having discontinued providing care for school age children last year. The center hours of operation are from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations/activities: This center has 12 enclosed classrooms, the center also has a large inside motor play room in the center of the classrooms. New Horizon
uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings; and the pro-care application for communicating with parents. The classrooms were in ratio; with good structure maintained. The children appear content. The staff were responsive and nurturing with the children. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys. There are Jack N Jill restrooms available for the children's use; which were clean and had the necessary sanitary items.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. Menus are crafted by corporate and rotated and appear in line with CACFP guidelines. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms. The kitchen was clean and had menus and food allergies posted. The food storage was clean and as required.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored securely in the office, readily accessible to med administering staff. There are basic first aid kits in all rooms. Discussion took place with the need to repost some emergency exit plan diagrams. Some cleaning/decorating had taken place and the director would assure the diagrams were re-posted. The center documents having completed emergency drills monthly as required. Radon was tested 3/2021, testing under 4.0 and is not due again for five years. HVAC is inspected yearly. There are carbon monoxide detectors located throughout the center.

Playground--The director was searching for the playground inspections check lists; the playground is enclosed with chain link fencing, along with wrought iron fencing in on some sides. There is a shade structure and play structures, both appear in good repair. There is artificial turf for safety surfacing.

Transportation/Field Trips NA

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were observed as required. Seven child files were reviewed; with five either missing or needing updated physicals; one with a scheduled physical. Five staff files were reviewed--one missing an employee-volunteer-substitute statement, one missing FBI (fingerprint)background checks and one in need of updated mandatory reporter training.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center is working toward IQ4K level 1.

The center was re-certified by NAEYC in 2023.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has a good core group of staff who work well together as a team. There is strong communication with parents and positive interactions with parents.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

One employee file background (FBI/Fingerprint) checks could not be located; the director will re-run this as soon as possible. The same employee did have a valid SING, IA child abuse and criminal check.

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.
Number not in compliance: 1

One employee file was missing updated mandatory reporter training information.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 5

Five child files reviewed needed updated physical information and one child had a physical scheduled.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now required every five years if the cutoff is under 4.0. The center completed radon testing in March of 2021, and all rooms tested were under the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflected the center is following CACFP guidelines.

*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.