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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Des Moines **Enrollment:** 77 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50178

Street: 450 SW 9th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Christina Berger **Phone Number:** 515-282-4229

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katelyn Brewton **E-Mail:** 3001@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 10-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 09-20-2022

Comments : fire inspections 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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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	27	90		165
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-15-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 10-8-24; The assistant director and area director were present through out the visit.

New Horizon Academy was given Permission to Open on 7/30/2018. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota and has daycare centers in several states. This is one of three centers recently constructed by New Horizon in the metro area. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all the centers opening in Iowa. Christina Berger is the center Director, starting 2/2023. Christina has prior assistant director and child care experience. Katelyn Brewton assumed the role of assistant director 9/2024; Katelyn has a bachelor's degree in the field of education with a minor in psychology. Katelyn has a CDA and is working toward a Masters along with five years of child care experience.. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

The center hours of operation are from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. This center has sole occupancy of the building.

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: The center uses the Creative Curriculum and the pro-care application. The rooms offer a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys/activities. Staff were in ratio and attentive to the children. The classrooms were organized and clean. Handwashing signs were posted. Restrooms were clean and stocked with necessary toiletries. Reminders were given for staff in one's room; as one child was atop a table and staff were either facing away from the child or focused on updating pro-care on the ipad. The assistant director did immediately address the situation.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. Menus are crafted by the corporate offices, are in a four week rotation, and appear in-line with CACFP guidelines. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms. The kitchen was very clean and organized Handwashing signs are posted as required.

Health and Safety: Mediations are stored securely in the office and administered by the director or assistant director. Handwashing signs are posted. All rooms has first aid kits in backpacks. Tornado and Fire written plans were in the rooms in a packet of information; however several rooms need to have a fire/tornado emergency exit diagram as during emergencies it is difficult to read directions; rather diagrams provide faster understanding and response for an actual emergency.. Radon was tested in 2022, all fell below 4.0.

Playground: The center has three levels, with a playground on the roof. There is also an outdoor playground on the ground level for the younger children. The center has a large motor play room on the second floor. The playground were observed to be in good condition and to be enclosed with wrought iron fencing with safety surfacing of artificial turf.

Transportation/Field Trips-NA

Administrative Review: Information regarding handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, and mandatory reporting was posted.. Five employee files were reviewed and three were missing employer physical forms; Five child files were reviewed with three missing updated physicals along with one missing immunization records. This center has a well established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has attained quality rating of IQ4K Level 4.The center has received their NAEYC accreditation.

The rooms are set up with many well supplied interest centers and allow for children to move freely throughout the room; The center has a secure entrance.

New Horizons offers tuition reimbursement for staff to obtain their CDA, AA, BA and MA. . .

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

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.
Number not in compliance: 3

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 3

109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children.Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards.If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.

This center has laminated packets for which some contained emergency response/exit instructions along with diagrams; however some rooms did not have a diagram of emergency fire and tornado exits posted or immediately or staff struggled to locate them; discussion took place with regard to conspicuously posting emergency exit DIAGRAMS.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center is very nicely arranged and contains a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys/activities with staff that were observed to be responsive to the children in their care; with the children being content.

Heavy discussion took place with regard to the elevator emitting an alarm that causes undue noise pollution in the environment. The center recently updated telephone technology and it is understood the elevator's internal workings are not able to function as intended to due inability to accommodate the updated phone system. Center Admin staff is aware of the concern and have contacted professionals to assist; which should be take priority.

A new full-two-year license is recommended.

*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.