Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Johnston

Provider No.: 50493

Address: 8650 NW 62nd AVE, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Alex Weisshaar

On-Site Supervisor: Lucia Hernandez/Amber Geller

Phone Number: 5153484028

E-Mail: 3003@nhacademy.net

HHS Visit Date: 06/01/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/31/2022

Comments: Due at least every three years; Johnston-Grimes Fire Dept

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

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	48	24	110		182
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 6/1/26. The director was present for the entire visit.

New Horizon Academy in Johnston was given permission to open on February 18, 2019. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota and has daycare centers in several states, including Iowa and the Des Moines Metro Area.

Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all of the centers in Iowa, starting in this position in June of 2022. Alex Weisshaar is the director; Alex has been in child care for many years and is working toward an AA degree in early childhood education. She meets the criteria for director.

Room Observations/Activities: The center uses Creative Curriculum with Gold for assessments. New Horizon has a district curriculum coordinator. Classrooms offer a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. New Horizon uses the pro-care application to communicate with parents. The rooms were observed to be in ratio; with children resting and content. The center provides UPK through a partnership with the school district.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff and the center offers breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack daily. Menus are crafted by corporate office and rotated seasonally every 4 weeks. Meals/snacks are served family style in the classroom. Menus were posted and the kitchen was clean/organized.

Health/Safety: Medications are stored securely; Handwashing signs are posted; There were a couple of classrooms missing emergency response diagrams and the director replaced those during the visit.; drills were documented to have been

completed monthly as required aside from May. The director stated they would ensure the drills are completed monthly as required.

Playground: Playground safety checks were not located and a form was provided; there is composite fencing (faux wrought iron); with shade and play structures in good repair. Surfacing is artificial turf and cement.

Transportation/Field Trips: This center dose not provide transportation at this time.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center received their NAEYC accreditation in February of 2023.

The center is using the ProCare app in all of the classrooms for daily notes as well as for communication with families and pictures. The app also connects with the Gold assessment.

The center has a secure entrance.

There are alarms in each classroom next to the door going out to the playground so if a child opens the door an alarm will sound. There are alarms on the gates on the outdoor playground as well.

New Horizons Academy will pay for a staff member to earn their CDA. They also offer tuition reimbursement to obtain a higher degree in Early Childhood Education. Currently one staff is working toward a CDA and one just obtained their CDA.

The center has a positive and comfortable atmosphere.

The center receives support from the New Horizons corporation with curriculum, and administrative functions.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)b: 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.

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109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

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

109.9(1)b: 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.
-A staff file reviewed contained a physical exam form outside the perimeters of 6 months; the staff will obtain a valid physical form conducted within six months prior to hire or post being hired.

109.9(1)b: 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.
-A staff file reviewed did not contact a valid first aid/CPR certification; the director later provided a valid certificate. No

further action required

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-A review of documentation on emergency drills was missing a month of drills
-The director stated she would ensure emergency drills are completed monthly as required by licensing
-Classrooms were observed without an emergency plan diagram, which the director replaced during the visit

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full two year license is recommended.

The menus reflect the center is in compliance with the CACFP (food program) guidelines. New Horizons has a dietician.

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is below the 4.0 cutoff. The center last completed radon testing in June 2023 and all rooms tested under the 4.0 cutoff.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The director shared teachers had recently completed conscious discipline training to assist in behavior management techniques. The director is available to step in for staff when needed to assist with structure in the classrooms as well. The director stated that behavioral management is discussed frequently at staff development meetings.

Date: 06/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.