Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Pella

Provider No.: 51267

Address: 308 SE 9th ST STE 100, Pella, IA, 50219

County: Marion

Director's Name: Becky Iddings

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6413167002

E-Mail: 3004@nhacademy.net

HHS Visit Date: 03/02/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/15/2025

Comments: conducted by Brad Pollard, DIAL Fire Inspector, due every three years

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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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
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	72	36	56	30	194
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

New Horizon Academy - Pella opened on was given permission to open on 12/1/20. The center is located in a building that has a secured entrance. The daycare serves children ages infancy through school age. The center has an indoor playground area in addition to the outdoor playground areas. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for the center, along with some other New Horizon centers in Iowa. Becky Iddings is the director. Becky has a BA in Elementary Education. Becky was a director for several years at another center prior to taking this position. Becky has been in the field of child care since 1987. The long time OSS recently left this position. Jaden Streeter will send an OSS request this month. She has worked in licensed childcare since 2021 and been employed at this center since 2023. The area director Kelena Bonnell visits twice a month.

HHS conducted an unannounced licensing visit on 2/28/26. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Becky was present and she assisted with the visit. Classrooms have defined learning centers. Classrooms have children's artwork displayed on walls. There are lockers in each classroom for children's belongings.

The center currently has two infant classrooms, two toddler classrooms (12 - 24 months), two 2's classrooms, two preschool classrooms (3's), two PreK classrooms (4/5's). All classrooms were at or above ratio requirements. They have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) classroom that is can be used by children ages three and up. Children were observed during nap time.

Center Nutrition:

The center has a full kitchen. A cook is employed by the center. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack.

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Menus are given by corporate office. Menus are on a four week rotation with some seasonal items. CACFP guidelines are followed. Refrigerators and freezers contain thermometers. All food waste containers were covered. No evidence of rodents or bugs were present. No food was stored on the floor.

Center Health and Safety:

Radon testing is due every five years. It is current and has a rate under 4 pci/L. The center contains carbon monoxide detectors upstairs and downstairs wired into the system. The Director reports this meets UL standards. The center is heated and cooled by an electric furnace, so a fuel burning appliances inspection is not required. The center has cleaning schedules. First aid kits are labeled and taken outdoors with the children. Allergy action plans and emergency medication are also taken outdoors with the children. The building was constructed after 1978, so lead based paint is not an issue.

First aid kits are labeled an inaccessible to children. Medication is inaccessible to children. Emergency medication is taken outdoor with children. Special health care plans should be posted or kept in the room with the child so staff can reference the plan in the event of an emergency.

Child and staff hand washing procedures are well defined. Cleaners were kept out of the reach of children in each room. HHS sent IDPH information on the cleaners being used in the center on 10/24/24. IDPH sent information to the Director on both the sanitizer and disinfectant. The program changed the cleaner in May 2025 to Purrell after the 2025 HHS visit.

Supervision is achieved by each staff maintaining ratio for their age group and knowing which children they are supervising. Staff should have specific children assigned to their care. The center utilizes name to face sheets during transition times.

In the infant room staff chairs were placed in the sleeping area or turned so that all children can be observed by sight. Staff should be able to see the rise and fall of the infant's chest as well as coloring of the infant. This is an improvement from last year.

Center Outdoor Play Area:

The center has two playgrounds. There is fencing around the playgrounds. The toddler playground has all turf surfacing. There is also concrete areas for riding toys. There are small climbing structures. The older children's playground has all turf surfacing. There is a concrete trail for riding toys. There is a climbing structure. There is an outdoor classroom. This is used by children ages two and up. Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman conducted an outdoor play area inspection in 2024.

The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized on days when outdoor play is questionable due to varying weather conditions.

Center Administration:

The center uses Creative Curriculum Gold for assessments. Classroom plans, menus, learning materials are provided to all of the New Horizon centers from corporate. The program has a curriculum coordinator who visits weekly.

Mandatory postings are in place at the building's entrance. Schedules and lesson plans are posted by classrooms. Teaching Strategies is used for lesson planning. Classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate furnishings, toys and learning supplies.

Child and staff files are reviewed annually. The former OSS runs a report every six weeks to ensure all requirements are up to date. She has left this position and a new OSS has been appointed. During her absence some administrative duties fell behind. Marion County Public Health typically visits in the fall to conduct immunization audits.

The center conducts an Emergency Preparedness Plan training annually. Staff sign and date acknowledgement of such. This is held twice a year so that all new staff are up to date. Staff should sign a document acknowledging training was taken and understood.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center receives a lot of support from being a part of a corporation. Menus are provided from corporate.
The center has a four star rating in the QRS quality program.
The center will work towards NAEYC accreditation.
The center has a video system in place in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, the parking lot and the lobby.
The director has several years of experience as a director.
The center is using the Tadpoles app in all of the classrooms for daily notes as well as for communication with families. The app also connects with the Gold assessment.
Staff wear center shirts. Staff profiles with pictures are posted outside of each classroom. Several staff have their CDA.
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. The center is participating in the Wages program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. Six are overdue. The Director indicated on 3/5/26 all SING checks have been updated with no additional criminal history noted on 3/4/26.

2. 109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. Four staff need updated fingerprints. The Director indicated on 3/5/26 fingerprints for staff were rolled and sent in 3/4/26.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The program should meet with CCR&R and IDPH on a regular basis throughout the year, to ensure consistency and compliance. The center may access CCR&R (Brenda O'Holloran) and IDPH CCNC (Mandi Lauderman or Tammy Merrill) to ask for assistance in maintaining licensing regulations throughout the year.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultants can perform an Injury Prevention Checklist both outside and inside. CCNC Mandi Lauderman inspected the outdoor play area in October 2024. She will visit the program again on 6/19/25. She states she visited twice in 2025 and has another visit scheduled for March 2026. She wrote, "I completed med skills test renewals and am actually going there next week to complete a med skills test."

HHS encourages you to contact your Child Care Resource and Referral consultant. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, IQ4K, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org Brenda O'Holloran is the facility consultant. Consultant O'Holloran

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provided IQ4K and slot (for the website) consultation as well as training options on 6/17/25. She has offered to provide services to the facility several times since opening. The center has a new consultant who has not met with the program yet.

Both service providers should be consulted on a regular basis. HHS encourages the program to make arrangements for this to occur quarterly.

I spoke with the Director about discipline. She stated, "We help staff understand the expectations for behavior guidance in the following ways:
During orientation and quarterly we discuss and acknowledge our behavior guidance policies. Also, during orientation, new hires spend time in our Mentor teacher's classroom having proper behavior guidance modeled. After orientation, our teachers go through the 10-hour Conscious Discipline training as a group lead by the director/assistant director. At monthly staff meetings, time is designated for any behavior issues with children, so they don't lead to teacher response issues. As the director, I try very hard to be available to my staff and aware of who may be having a challenging time so to add support."

Date: 03/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

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**.