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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Johnston **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50493

Street: 8650 NW 62nd AVE **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Tara Konecne **Phone Number:** 515-412-9915

On-Site Supervisor(s): Darby Hayslett **E-Mail:** 3003@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-19-2023

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:** 05-19-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-31-2022

Comments :

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: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 05-25-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 5/19/23 The Director was present throughout the visit.

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.

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. 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 centers in Iowa, starting in this position in June of 2022. Heidi Oppegard is the Regional Manager. Tara Konecne is the director, starting in this role in November of 2022. Tara has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Human Relations. She had four prior years of experience in a childcare setting prior to taking this position. She meets qualifications for this role. Darby Hayslett is the on-site supervisor, starting in this role in February of 2023. Darby has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood education and six prior years of experience in a childcare setting. She meets qualifications for this role.

The center has 11 enclosed classrooms and a large indoor motor play area, as well as a large outdoor play area. All of the infant rooms have a capacity of 12 children (two infant rooms have a total capacity for 16 children, however the center has capped these two rooms at 12). Both of the two year old classrooms have a capacity of 12 children. The two three year old classrooms each have a capacity of 16 children and the two Preschool classrooms each have a capacity for 24 children. The school age room has a capacity for 30 children. The center stopped taking school age children in May of 2022. This may be re-visited at a later date to add this age group back, however at this time the center is no longer taking school age children. The 30 capacity for the classroom is added to the preschool age number as the classroom will be used eventually when numbers increase and will more than likely be use as a preschool age classroom.

The center uses Creative Curriculum with Gold for assessments. New Horizon has a district curriculum coordinator and this is Amanda Suddoth.

The center provides UPK through a partnership with the school district.

This center, as with the majority of centers across Iowa, has encountered staffing shortages. The center is not taking new enrollments until they are able to hire more staff. Their enrollment is lower, however the center is working toward building this number and being able to maintain quality care. On the day of the visit 5 classrooms were closed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a QRS rating of 3 stars, this is based on a 1-5 rating.

The center just 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.

Staff wear uniforms making them easily identifiable as staff.

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.

Staff profiles with pictures are posted outside of each classroom.

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 is participating in the Wages program.

New Horizons provided all of their staff with a wage increase, for both long term and new staff. They also gave staff retention bonuses on top of the retention bonus offered by the State.

The administrative team is working hard to promote and expect professionalism within their staff.

The administrative teams gives out Welcome baskets to new staff joining the team.

The administrative teams lets staff know they are appreciated. They order food for staff, hand out gift cards and thank you notes.

The center has a parent library where parents can check out books on parenting and behaviors in children.

The center has monthly in person staff meetings.

The center receives support from the New Horizons corporation.

The new administrative team work well together and they do check ins with staff routinely. They want staff to feel valued, appreciated, supported and heard. They work hard to do what is best for their staff and families/children.

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

109.10(15)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.
Fire drill documentation could not be located for the months of September, October and November of 2022. Tornado drill documentation could not be located for the months of September through December of 2022 or for April of 2023.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
Playground inspection documentation could not be located for the months of September through December of 2022 or for January to March of 2023.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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 of 2021 and all rooms tested under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center recently appointed a safety coordinator to ensure fire and tornado drills are conducted and documented, as well as playground inspections.

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.