Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - ITA Group

Provider No.: 52706

Address: 7000 Vista Drive Ste 110, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Darby Hayslett

On-Site Supervisor: Gabie Schuster

Phone Number: 5153351293

E-Mail: 3009@nhacademy.net

HHS Visit Date: 09/08/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 10/31/2024

Comments: Fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by West Des Moines 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

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| HOURS: | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Tuesday | 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Wednesday | 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Thursday | 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Friday | 7:00 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 | 46 | 33 | 76 | | 155 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 1/22/25. Gabie Schuster, assistant director, was present for the visit.

New Horizon Academy--ITA Group was given Permission to Open on 11/1/24. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota and has child care centers in several states. There are several centers within the Des Moines Metro Area. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all of the centers in Iowa. Darby Hayslett is the Director for this center, starting upon opening, Darby has previous child care and director experience. Gabie Shuster is the assistant director and has previous child care experience. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

New Horizon Academy-ITA serves children ages 6 weeks up to preschool age. The child care center is located within the ITA group building on the ground level. This area of the building was newly renovated specifically for providing child care. This center has preferred spots for ITA employees and is also open to enrollment from the community.

New Horizon Academy uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings; and the pro-care application for communicating with parents. Teachers were consistently observed to be engaged in active supervision of the children or leading group activities. The children were content. Classrooms offer a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and play centers.

The center offers full breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are crafted by corporate, changing seasonally and appear in line with CACFP guidelines for healthy eating. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms. The kitchen was clean and had menus and food allergies posted.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

This center has an indoor and outdoor playground. The outdoor playground is enclosed with wrought iron fencing. There are three shade structures; and has artificial turf for safety surfacing. When observed, this playground was in good repair (it is brand new). The indoor large motor play area offers a variety of learning centers and activities.

The center is currently working toward IQ4K certification. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on.

New Horizons does offer participation in WAGES and TEACH programs. Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual's level of formal education and commitment to their program. TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

The center does have security cameras on site.

This center has a secure entrance and is located within a cooperate building, offering parents ready access to the child on site.

This center offers a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and play centers.

This center was observed to have staff actively engaged in leading activities with children that were content.

There are monthly staff meetings and professional development offered for teachers.

This center is very clean and organized.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

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. One staff member reviewed required updated SING (Iowa background check). The assistant director indicated this would be completed upon return of the director to the center. The director later provided the background check.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. One staff file reviewed did not contain yearly required continuing education/trainings.

109.9(1)c: 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. One staff file reviewed indicated expired CPR/First Aid. The director indicated that CPR/First Aid training is set for October.

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

NA

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

Radon testing was completed....falling under the 4.0 level of safety. Radon testing is due again in five years.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Teachers were observed to be engaged with the children in the classrooms, providing close supervision. Teachers were also observed working well together and the children were content.

Date: 10/02/2025

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**.