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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - ITA Group **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52706

Street: 7000 Vista Drive Ste 110 **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3405 Annapolis Ln N Ste 100 , Plymouth, MN, 55447

Director's Name: Darby Hayslett **Phone Number:** 515-335-1293

On-Site Supervisor(s): Gabby Schuster **E-Mail:** 3009@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 01-22-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-13-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-31-2024

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

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 X Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	46	33	76		155
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:** 02-14-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 1/22/25. Darby Hayslett, director was present for the entire 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. Gabby 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.

The center hours of operation are from 7 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday.

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: New Horizon Academy uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings; and the pro-care application for communicating with parents. The classrooms were in ratio; with good structure maintained. The children appear content. The staff were responsive and nurturing with the children. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys. Restrooms were clean and stocked with necessary toiletries. This center is currently building enrollment and has classrooms available if/when more classroom space is needed.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff; the kitchen is a distance from the secured areas of the center; and meals are taken to the center after being prepared. Menus are crafted by corporate, changing seasonally and appear in line with CACFP guidelines. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms. The kitchen was clean and had menus and food allergies posted. The food storage was clean and as required.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored securely in the office. There are basic first aid kits in all rooms. Emergency exit diagrams were posted in all rooms. The center documents having completed emergency drills monthly as required. This is a new center; radon testing to be completed in one year. HVAC is maintained by the ITA group.

Playground--Playground checks were completed for November; but missed in December. This playground is new and building maintenance also checks of the playground routinely. The 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).

Transportation/Field Trips: NA

Administrative Review: Fliers for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans were posted as required; the director indicated she would secure and post non-smoking signs on the exterior doors to the center . Four child files were reviewed-- with one file missing contact information for child's dentist; Three staff files were reviewed and contained all required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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.

This center is very clean and organized.

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

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
A December playground check had not been documented as completed; this playground is brand new and is also checked over by building maintenance.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A new 2 year full 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.