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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - WDM **Enrollment:** 120 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50394

Street: 9040 University AVE **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Tammy Hinton **Phone Number:** 515-412-9915

On-Site Supervisor(s): Annamarie Leo **E-Mail:** 3002@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 03-21-2023

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:** 02-27-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-22-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 04-21-2023

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 3/21/23. The center Director, Tammy, was present during 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 West Des Moines was given Permission to Open on 11/26/18. 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 center in Iowa. Tammy Hinton is the Director as of July of 2022. Tammy has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and almost eleven prior years of experience in childcare/preschool settings. Annamaria Leo is the on-site supervisor as of February of 2023. Annamaria has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and six prior years of experience in a childcare setting. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

This center has 12 enclosed classrooms, serving children ages 6 weeks up to preschool age, having discontinued providing care for school age children last year. The center also has a large inside motor play room in the center of the classrooms. The center hours of operation are from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

The center has sent their portfolio information into NAEYC to become accredited. Due to the pandemic the accreditation process has been delayed. NAEYC did look at their portfolio and based the accreditation off of the portfolio only, and will complete a visit later; the portfolio was approved and the center has their provisional accreditation. The recently had a NAEYC visit.

The center has a secure entrance.

The staff wear uniforms, making them easily identifiable as staff members.

The center has a good core group of staff who work well together as a team. There is strong communication with parents and positive interactions with parents.

The staff are appreciated and positive staff notes are posted for staff members to read. There is a Kindness wall for staff and parents to write out kind notes; this is in the entryway, as well as post it notes for encouragement.

The center uses the Pro-care connect app for daily notes and communication with parents. The center also uses Pro Care for parents to sign in.

The classrooms are set up well, with well supplied interest centers.

New Horizon has a professional development day and all three centers participate on this day.

The administrative team will bring in snacks for the staff for appreciation. They will have contests for the classrooms to win prizes. They give all new staff a welcome bag.

The director feels the center is moving in a good direction. They receive strong support from the area director and from the corporate office.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff file reviewed did not have a copy of the results of the Iowa record checks. This was for a staff hired in January of 2022.

109.9(1)d: 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.
Number not in compliance: 2
Two staff files reviewed did not contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire. One was completed ten months after hire and one file did not have a physical completed yet for a staff hired in January of 2023.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
Six child files reviewed did not have an annual update.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 7

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
A prescription medication at the center was not stored in the original container with the label for physician or pharmacist directions.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
Two prescription medications at the center did not have authorization signed by the parent/guardian for the center to administer the medication.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now required every five years if the cutoff is under 4.0. The center completed radon testing in March of 2021, and all rooms tested were under the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflected the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Tammy is going through staff files to ensure all files are up to date. The staff file missing a physical has one scheduled for the following week. The staff file missing the results of the SING check had the waiver paperwork completed, Tammy

completed another SING check on the day of the visit and there were no records found. This staff was hired prior to Tammy becoming director.

Tammy will conduct a child file update in April for all child files. Several child files did not have an annual update and several child files did not have an updated physical.

On 4/14/23 Tammy sent this consultant an email with updates since the visit, playground inspection logs were located and the parent brought in the container and label for the prescription medication. The latest fire inspection was located.

Tammy and the on-site supervisor have been in ratio often lately, however Tammy has just hired new staff members and will hopefully be out of ratio on a consistent basis soon.

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.