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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - WDM **Enrollment:** 115 **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: Nichelle Hoey **Phone Number:** 515-412-9915

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

Date(s) of Visit: 03-12-2025

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: 02-21-2025

Comments : Fire inspections are 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 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: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 03-17-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 3-12-25. Director Nichelle Hoey and Regional Manager Kelena Bonnell were present through this visit.

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. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all of the center in Iowa. Nichelle Hoey became the director for this center 12-2023, She has previous director and assistant director experience along with a Bachelor's degree in Family Services. Korie Mahieu is the assistant director. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

New Horizon Academy-WDSM serves children ages 6 weeks up to preschool age.

The center hours of operation are from 6:30AM to 6:30PM.

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 uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings; and the pro-care application for communicating with parents. The classrooms were in ratio; with staff involved maintaining good structure while being nurturing with the children who were content and some were resting during this visit. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys. There are Jack N Jill restrooms available for the children's use; which were clean and had the necessary sanitary items. Some discussion did take place to remind staff to help younger children with handwashing after diaper changes.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. Menus are crafted by corporate and rotated 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. The kitchen had just received a food delivery and staff were working on putting new food supplies in storage.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored securely in the office, readily accessible to med administering staff. There are basic first aid kits in all rooms. Emergency exit diagrams were posted. The director indicated some handwashing diagrams would be re-hung as some refreshing to those diagrams was occurring. The center documents having completed emergency drills monthly as required. Radon was tested 3/2021, testing under 4.0 and is not due again for five years. HVAC is inspected yearly, kept on file with corporate; and will need to be on file at the center as well. There are carbon monoxide detectors located throughout the center. The center does have a designated off-site safe place; this disaster type planning is reviewed with staff upon hire with monthly reminders.

Playground--The center has a designated staff that is a safety coordinator that keeps track of playground inspections, which

were documented as completed; the playground is enclosed with chain link fencing, along with wrought iron fencing in on some sides. There is a shade structure and play structures, both appear in good repair. There is artificial turf for safety surfacing.

Transportation/Field Trips NA

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were observed as required. Eight staff files were reviewed; one missing a SING (IA based background check) was out dated and completed while this visit took place; one employee missing updated CPR/First Aide training. Eight child files were reviewed; seven needed annual updates and/or updated physical forms; one had an immunization record signed but not dated. The director has recently returned from leave and was actively reviewing files to establish necessary updated trainings/background checks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center is working toward IQ4K level 1.

The center was re-certified by NAEYC in 2023.

The center has a secure entrance.

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

109.6(6)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 had not had a SING check since 2021; and was completed while the visit took place.

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: 1
Staff physicals are due prior to hire (can be completed within 6 months prior to hire) and then every three years after.

109.9(1)e: 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.
Number not in compliance: 1
Staff would be scheduled for updated training as soon as possible.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
The director was actively working to update child files. Files need an annual update; which can be a parent filling a new form or signing/dating review of the form annually.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 1

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.

This center was observed to be organized; with staff that pride in their classrooms and work as a team, including the director.

*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.