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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Johnston **Enrollment:** 91 **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: Haleigh Johnson **Phone Number:** 515-348-4028

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

Date(s) of Visit: 05-19-2025

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:** 05-19-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-31-2022

Comments : Due at least every three years; Johnston-Grimes 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 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-04-2025

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 5/19-25. The director was present for the entire visit.

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, including Iowa and the Des Moines Metro Area.

Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all of the centers in Iowa, starting in this position in June of 2022. Haleigh Johnson is the Director, starting in this role 9/2024. Haleigh has a bachelor's degree and nearly 6 years of child care related experience. Hailee Jorgensen is the assistant director at this center.

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: The center uses Creative Curriculum with Gold for assessments. New Horizon has a district curriculum coordinator. Classrooms offer a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. New Horizon uses the pro-care application to communicate with parents. The rooms were observed to be in ratio; the staff were leading group activities or meeting individuals needs; good handwashing technique was utilized. The children were content and staff responsive while maintaining good structure in the rooms. The center provides UPK through a partnership with the school district.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff. Menus appear in line with CACFP guidelines. Menus are crafted by corporate office and rotated seasonally every 4 weeks. Meals/snacks are served family style in the classroom. Menus were posted and the kitchen was clean/organized.

Health/Safety: Medications are stored securely; Handwashing signs are posted; Tornado and fire emergency plans were posted; drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon was last tested 6/2/23 and all levels were under the safety level of 4.0. This center is very clean and organized.

Playground: Playground safety checks were not located and a form was provided; there is composite fencing (faux wrought iron); with shade and play structures in good repair. Surfacing is artificial turf and cement. Heavy discussion took place regarding a storm drain in the middle of the the playground on the north west side of the center. The safety grate was intact on top of the grate, however the pipe does stick out of the ground and could pose a risk to children.

Transportation/Field Trips: NA

Administrative review: The center has available fliers for mandatory reporting, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado exit plans and non smoking signs were posted. Five staff files were reviewed; with two missing updated SING checks, which could be the result of internal transfers however need to be on file; and two staff physicals that were taken after

employment was begun.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

The center receives support from the New Horizons corporation.

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.
>>Two files missing updated SING (Iowa) Checks; which could be the result of internal transfers between centers however this could not be verified.

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
Physicals are required within six months PRIOR to hire and then every 3 years there after.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 3
Information lacking: Three child files missing emergency contact information for dentist.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A new full two year license is recommended.

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 2023 and all rooms tested under the 4.0 cutoff.

The staff were observed to be engaged in leading group activities and children were content during this unannounced visit.

*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.