Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Des Moines

Provider No.: 50178

Address: 450 SW 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

County: Polk

Director's Name: Katelyn Brewton

On-Site Supervisor: Natalie Hitchcock

Phone Number: 5152824229

E-Mail: 3001@nhacademy.net

HHS Visit Date: 10/08/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/09/2022

Comments: fire inspections due at least every three years/waiting Fire Inspection

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	Year-round	School-Year	Summer Only
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	48	27	90		165
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed on 10-8-25; The director and assistant director were present through the visit.

New Horizon Academy was given Permission to Open on 7/30/2018. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota and has daycare centers in several states. This is one of several newer centers owned by New Horizon Academy in the metro area. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all the centers opening in Iowa. Katelyn Brewton assumed the director role in 2025 having previously been the Assistant Director; Katelyn has a bachelor's degree in the field of education with a minor in psychology. Katelyn has a CDA and is working toward a Masters along with five years of child care experience. Natalie Hedgecock is the Assistant Director; Natalie has an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and several years of childcare experience.

The center hours of operation are from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. This center has sole occupancy of the building that was constructed to provide child care.

New Horizon Academy uses the Creative Curriculum and the pro-care application to communicate with parents. Teachers were observed leading group activities, or meeting individual needs. Teachers were engaged and children were content. The center has a variety of toys and learning centers. This center offers an in-door and two out-door playgrounds for large motor play.

This center has an on-site kitchen, where meals are prepared fresh. New Horizon offers breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Menus are crafted by the corporate offices, are in a four week rotation, and appear in-line with CACFP guidelines for

healthy eating. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms.

Transportation/Field Trips-NA

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has received their NAEYC accreditation. (The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research)

New Horizon offers tuition reimbursement for staff to obtain their CDA, AA, BA and MA. There are center-based monthly staffing meetings.

New Horizon participates in Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. 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.

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. There was a staff file reviewed that needed an updated SING (Iowa Check); the director indicated this would be updated today.

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions.Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
There was a staff member that had not yet completed CPR/First Aid training within 90 days of hire; the director indicated that there is a large group training set up to complete this training within a couple weeks of this visit.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Staff files did not contain sufficient information that annually required training hours had been completed. The director indicated that this would become part of staff meeting to address with staff.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. There were child files that needed updated physical form or had gone beyond the 30-day admission without a physical form on file. The director had documented contacting families to obtain this information and would seek this out or inform families this was a requirement to continue to attend child care.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Radon was tested in 2022, all fell below 4.0.

This center is mid-licensing cycle for two-year license.

Date: 10/17/2025

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**.