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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Urbandale **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52444

Street: 12900 Hickory Drive **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50323 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Laura Aldinger **Phone Number:** 515-608-6933

On-Site Supervisor(s): Whitney Popkes **E-Mail:** 3007@nhacademy.net laldinger@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 03-04-2024, 05-08-2024

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:** 02-27-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-26-2024

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 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	56	27	88	30	201
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-15-2024

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 competed on 5-8-24. Present for the visit was the Director (Laura Aldinger) and Assistant Director (Whitney Popkes).
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New Horizon Academy--Urbandale was given Permission to Open without a license on 3-4-24. New Horizon Academy is based out of Minnesota and has daycare centers in several states. This is one of several centers recently constructed by New Horizon in the metro area.
Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all the centers opening in Iowa. Laura Aldinger is the Director at this site. Laura has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Dev and previous director and childcare experience. Whitney Popkes is the Assistant Director at this site. Whitney holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Human Services. She has five years of experience in child care. Both meet the criteria for their positions.

The center hours of operation are from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM, serving children ages 6 weeks to school age. This center has sole occupancy of the building.

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: This center utilizes Creative Curriculum and the procare application to communicate with families. The rooms are in ratio, and very clean/organized. There is a good variety of developmentally appropriate toys and play centers in each of the rooms. The center is using Purell Sanitizer (pro-spray) for cleaning/sanitizing. Lesson plans are posted, handwashing signs are posted as are the emergency evacuation diagrams. Staff were observed to maintain good structure in the rooms and give nurturing responses for the children. There are sufficient sink/toilets available and all were in working order/clean.

Nutrition Practices: There is an onsite kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The center's menus appear in line with CACFP guidelines, and are crafted by cooperate/director. Menus are posted and items rotated seasonally. Meals and snacks are served family style in the classrooms.

Health/Safety: When it is necessary to administer medication from the center; medication is stored securely and administered by the Director or Assistant director. Handwashing signs were posted in the restrooms and/or by sinks. First aid supplies are available in all the rooms with a larger first aid kit at near the front desk. Emergency evacuation plans/diagrams are posted as required. Drills are documented as completed monthly. Radon testing was completed 1-8-24 and all levels tested below 4.0; testing would be due again in five years. There are built in fire and carbon monoxide detectors in this new construction.

Playground: The playground is divided by ages; enclosed with steel wrought iron look fencing. There are large shade structures spaced through out the playground areas. Safety surfacing is artificial turf. Playground safety inspection form

was provided to the center director. This playground offers a good variety of outdoor activities for all age groups.

Transportation/Field trips: NA

Administrative review: Fliers with information for mandatory reporting, handbook and non-smoking signs were posted. A consult contact flier was sent and license will be posted once received. Fire/Tornado plans are posted around the center. There were five child files reviewed that contained all necessary information and five staff files reviewed; missing only information from employees within 3 months of hire. New Horizon Academy has a well established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center offers a new facility with a plethora of centers and toys in each classroom.

The director and assistant director are invested in the program and children attending the center.
The center has a secure entrance.

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 nicely, with well supplied interest centers.

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

There were not aspects of operation identified that fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon was completed Jan/2024, and results were all under 4.0; and will be due again in five years.

The director will send consultant training certifications for staff that are nearing 3 months of hire date as they were scheduled but not completed when the licensing visit occurred.

This center has begun the process to attain NAEYC accreditation, along with an IQ4K rating.

A 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.