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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Des Moines **Enrollment:** 93 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50178

Street: 450 SW 9th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Chelsea Kusmec **Phone Number:** 515-282-4229

On-Site Supervisor(s): Crystal Petrak **E-Mail:** 3001@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 11-09-2022

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:** 10-04-2022

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

Date Inspected: 09-20-2022

Comments :

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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	27	90		165
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 11-14-2022

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 11/9/22. The center Director was present throughout 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 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 three centers recently constructed by New Horizon in the metro area. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all the centers opening in Iowa. Chelsea Kusmec is the director, starting in this role in February of 2022. Chelsea has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and has seven prior years of experience in a childcare setting. Crystal Petrak is the On-Site Supervisor, starting in this role in March of 2022. Crystal has a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, child and family welfare. Crystal has eleven prior years of experience in a childcare setting. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

The center has 10 enclosed classrooms, serving children ages 6 weeks to preschool age. The center has three levels, with a playground on the roof. There is also an outdoor playground on the ground level for the younger children. The center has a large motor play room on the second floor. The center hours of operation are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The center uses the Creative Curriculum. The center has partnered with the Des Moines school district to offer UPK., however did not do UPK this school year, they hope to start this again next school year.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has received a four star rating through QRS, a quality rating system based on 1-5 stars.

The center applied for and received their NAEYC accreditation.

The center has a secure entrance.

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

The staff are invested in the center and work well together as a team.

The center and company show appreciation for staff and recognize staff's hard work and dedication.

The center uses a daily connect app and sends out real time updates to parents.

The center sends out their menus to parents which include the recipes.

The center posts staff profiles.

The rooms are set up with many well supplied interest centers and allow for children to move freely throughout the room.

The center conducts monthly staff meetings.

New Horizons offers tuition reimbursement for staff to obtain their CDA, AA, BA and MA.

The new administration team works hard to develop trust with families and to let staff know they are appreciated. They work well together and the new director is very organized.

The staff at this center help at other New Horizon centers and offer to help, they are team players.

The center had a family fun night recently.

The administrative team brings food for staff, treats, and gives gifts to staff; they recently gave out staff survival kits. They are planning a fun staff outing in the next few months.

The administrative team is working with teachers on curriculum training and doing more curriculum in the classrooms.

The center has only been open for four years, there are some staff who have worked at the center for three years and for two years.

The director reaches out to CCR&R and works with her CCR&R consultant.

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 national history check.

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
One staff file did not contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire, the exam report was completed a year after hire.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child file reviewed did not have an annual update since February of 2020.

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, 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: 1
One child file did not have an updated physical exam report, the last report was from May of 2021.

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 was not stored in the original container with the label with physician or pharmacist directions.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Fire and tornado drills were not documented for the months of November and December of 2021 or for the months of January and February of 2022.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The center completed radon testing on 8/3/20 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff. Radon kits were placed in the classrooms and sent in for testing the week prior to the visit. The results are not available yet.

This center has had several transitions with their administrative teams, the new team starting in February/March of this year. The new team is working hard to organize staff and child files, as well as going into ratio when the center is short staffed and cooking when the center does not have a cook. This center, as with the majority of centers across Iowa, has had staffing shortages and they are not fully enrolled due to these shortages. Two classrooms are closed.

The director will obtain the label for the prescription medication.

Since the new director started, fire and tornado drills are conducted and recorded monthly.

Only one child file did not have an annual update.

Since the new director started, staff files and child files that were created or started after the new director are complete with all necessary and required documentation.

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.