**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:** 11-09-2023

**Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 :** fire inspections 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 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:** N/A

| 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:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-09-2024

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced off year visit was completed 11-9-23. Present through the visit were Director Christina Berger and Asst Director Nichelle Hoey.

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. Christina Berger is the center Director, stating 2/2023. Christina has prior assistant director and child care experience. Nichelle Hoey is the assistant director, starting 3/2023. She has prior director experience and a Bachelor's degree in Child/Adult Family Services. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

The center hours of operation are from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. 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: The center has 10 enclosed classrooms, serving children ages 6 weeks to preschool age. The center uses the Creative Curriculum and the pro-care application. The rooms offer a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys/activities. Staff were in ratio and attentive to the children. The classrooms were organized and clean. Handwashing signs were posted. Restrooms were clean and stocked with necessary toiletries.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. Menus are crafted by the corporate offices, are in a four week rotation, and appear in-line with CACFP guidelines. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms. The kitchen was orderly and clean. Handwashing signs are posted as required.

Health and Safety: Mediations are stored securely in the office and administered by the director or assistant director. Handwashing signs are posted. All rooms has first aid kits in backpacks. Tornado and Fire plans are posted. Drills for Jan/Feb/April/July/Aug and Sept were missing. Radon was tested in 2022, all fell below 4.0.

Playground: 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. Playground checks were completed as required. The playground were observed to be in good working condition and to be enclosed with wrought iron fencing with safety surfacing of artificial turf.

Transportation/Field Trips-NA

Administrative Review: Information regarding handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted. Mandatory reporter information was missing and discussion with the assistant director

ensuring this information was posted. There were 7 child files reviewed; two needing updated physicals and two needing annual reviews/updates. There were five employee files reviewed; 2 missing employee-volunteer statements; one needing an updated SING check; one needing an updated FBI check; One needing universal precautions, 4 needing mandatory reporter training. This center has a well established policy.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

This center is working toward IQ4K requirements.

The center applied for and received their NAEYC accreditation.

The center has a secure entrance.

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

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

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

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

109.4(3)b
Postings are required for: Mandatory reporter requirements. Notice of availability of handbook. Program activities. These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public. (Mandatory reporter information was not posted)

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.

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 3

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: 2

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: 2

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2

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.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Discussion was had regarding completing and maintaining fire/tornado drills/documentation of such.

This center is very nicely arranged and contains a plethora of age/developmentally appropriate toys/activities with staff that were consistently observed to be responsive to the children in their care; with the children being content.

*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.