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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Johnston **Enrollment:** 75 **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: Tara Konecne **Phone Number:** 515-348-4028

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

Date(s) of Visit: 05-30-2024

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:** 05-19-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-31-2022

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 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 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-09-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year annual visit was competed May 30, 2024. The Director was present throughout the 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. Two other centers have opened in the metro area, this is one of three New Horizon centers.

Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for all of the centers in Iowa, starting in this position in June of 2022. Heidi Oppegard is the Regional Manager. Tara Konecne is the director, starting in this role in November of 2022. Tara has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Human Relations. She had four prior years of experience in a childcare setting prior to taking this position. She meets qualifications for this role. Darby Hayslett is the on-site supervisor, starting in this role in February of 2023. Darby has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood education and six prior years of experience in a childcare setting. She meets qualifications for this role.

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 11 enclosed classrooms and a large indoor motor play area, as well as a large outdoor play area. All of the infant rooms have a capacity of 12 children (two infant rooms have a total capacity for 16 children, however the center has capped these two rooms at 12). . The center stopped taking school age children in May of 2022. . The 30 capacity for the classroom is added to the preschool age number as the classroom will be used eventually when numbers increase and will more than likely be use as a preschool age classroom.

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. Staff were in ratio and observed to maintain a good structure while responding in a nurturing manner with the children. 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 for April 2023 and 2024 were missing; Radon was last tested in 2021, under 4.0 and due again in 2025. The center had recently been rearranging posters/fliers for the required announcements. This center was very clean and organized.

Playground: safety checks were missing from Feb-May of 2024; there is composite fencing (faux wrought iron); with

shade and play structures in good repair. Surfacing is artificial turf and cement.

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, however they were being re-hung after painting/rearranging. Five staff reviewed; one needed an updated SING (child abuse check), two were needing updated mandatory reporter training. Five child files were reviewed--two missing dentist contact information; one missing doctor and preferred hospital. One missing a immunization records.

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 center is participating in the Wages program.

New Horizons provided all of their staff with a wage increase, for both long term and new staff. They also gave staff retention bonuses on top of the retention bonus offered by the State.

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

The administrative teams gives out Welcome baskets to new staff joining the team.

The administrative teams lets staff know they are appreciated. They order food for staff, hand out gift cards and thank you notes.

The center has a parent library where parents can check out books on parenting and behaviors in children.

The center has monthly in person staff meetings.

The center receives support from the New Horizons corporation.

The new administrative team work well together and they do check ins with staff routinely. They want staff to feel valued, appreciated, supported and heard. They work hard to do what is best for their staff and families/children.

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

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

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)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 medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 2

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1

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. Drills were missing April of 2023 and 2024.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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 of 2021 and all rooms tested under the 4.0 cutoff.

*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.