

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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Pella **Enrollment:** 120 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51267

Street: 308 SE 9th ST STE 100 **City:** Pella **Iowa** **Zip** 50219 **County:** Marion

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

Director's Name: Becky Iddings **Phone Number:** 641-316-7002

On-Site Supervisor(s): Christine Andersen **E-Mail:** 3004@nhacademy.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-05-2025, 05-28-2025

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:** 04-10-2025

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

Date Inspected: 01-15-2025

Comments : conducted by Brad Pollard, DIAL Fire Inspector, due 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**

Accreditation: **Accredited** **NAEYC** **NSACA** **Other** X **NA**

Program Serves: X **Infants (0-23 mo.)** X **2 Years** X **Preschool-Age** X **School-Age**

Get-Well **Evening Care** **Special Needs**

SCHEDULE: **Year-round** X **School-Year** **Summer Only**

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	72	36	56	30	194
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Date: 06-17-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

New Horizon Academy - Pella opened on was given permission to open on 12/1/20. The center is located in a building that has a secured entrance. The daycare serves children ages infancy through school age. The center has an indoor playground area in addition to the outdoor playground areas. New Horizon is based out of Minnesota. Kelena Bonnell is the Area Director for the center, along with some other New Horizon centers in Iowa. Becky Iddings is the director. Becky has a BA in Elementary Education. Becky was a director for several years at another center prior to taking this position. Becky has been in the field of child care since 1987. Christine Andersen has been OSS at the facility since 2021. Ms. Andersen holds an Early Childhood Associate (Associate) and has been employed in licensed childcare since 2008. One or both are present daily. The area director Kelena Bonnell visits twice a month.

HHS conducted an unannounced licensing visit on 5/5/25 and an unannounced compliant visit on 5/28/25 All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Becky was present and she assisted with both visits. Classrooms have defined learning centers. Classrooms have children's artwork displayed on walls. There are lockers in each classroom for children's belongings.

The center currently has two infant classrooms, two toddler classrooms (12 - 24 months), two 2's classrooms, two preschool classrooms (3's), two PreK classrooms (4/5's). All classrooms were at or above ratio requirements. They have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) classroom that is can be used by children ages three and up. Children were observed during nap time.

Center Nutrition:

The center has a full kitchen. A cook is employed by the center. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are given by corporate office. Menus are on a four week rotation with some seasonal items. CACFP guidelines are followed. Refrigerators and freezers contain thermometers. All food waste containers were covered. No evidence of rodents or bugs were present. No food was stored on the floor.

Center Health and Safety:

Radon testing is due every five years. It is current and has a rate under 4 pci/L. The center contains carbon monoxide detectors upstairs and downstairs wired into the system. The Director reports this meets UL standards. The center is heated and cooled by an electric furnace, so a fuel burning appliances inspection is not required. The center has cleaning schedules. First aid kits are labeled and taken outdoors with the children. Allergy action plans and emergency medication are also taken outdoors with the children. The building was constructed after 1978, so lead based paint is not an issue.

First aid kits are labeled an inaccessible to children. Medication is inaccessible to children. Emergency medication is taken outdoor with children. Special health care plans should be posted or kept in the room with the child so staff can reference the plan in the event of an emergency.

Child and staff hand washing procedures are well defined. Cleaners were kept out of the reach of children in each room. HHS sent IDPH information on the cleaners being used in the center on 10/24/24. IDPH sent information to the Director on both the sanitizer and disinfectant. The program changed the cleaner in May 2025 to Purrell after the 2025 HHS visit.

Supervision is achieved by each staff maintaining ratio for their age group and knowing which children they are supervising. Staff should have specific children assigned to their care. The center utilizes name to face sheets during transition times.

In the infant room staff chairs were placed in the sleeping area or turned so that all children can be observed by sight. Staff should be able to see the rise and fall of the infant's chest as well as coloring of the infant. This is an improvement from last year.

Center Outdoor Play Area:

The center has two playgrounds. There is fencing around the playgrounds. The toddler playground has all turf surfacing. There is also concrete areas for riding toys. There are small climbing structures. The older children's playground has all turf surfacing. There is a concrete trail for riding toys. There is a climbing structure. There is an outdoor classroom. This is used by children ages two and up. Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman conducted an outdoor play area inspection in 2024.

The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized on days when outdoor play is questionable due to varying weather conditions.

Center Administration:

The center uses Creative Curriculum Gold for assessments. Classroom plans, menus, learning materials are provided to all of the New Horizon centers from corporate. The program has a curriculum coordinator who visits weekly.

Mandatory postings are in place at the building's entrance. Schedules and lesson plans are posted by classrooms. Teaching Strategies is used for lesson planning. Classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate furnishings, toys and learning supplies.

Child and staff files are reviewed annually. The Director runs a report every six weeks to ensure all requirements are up to date. Marion County Public Health typically visits in the fall to conduct immunization audits.

The center conducts an Emergency Preparedness Plan training annually. Staff sign and date acknowledgement of such. This is held twice a year so that all new staff are up to date.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center receives a lot of support from being a part of a corporation. Menus are provided from corporate.

The center has a four star rating in the QRS quality program.

The center will work towards NAEYC accreditation.

The center has a video system in place in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, the parking lot and the lobby.

The director has several years of experience as a director.

The center is using the Tadpoles app in all of the classrooms for daily notes as well as for communication with families. The app also connects with the Gold assessment.

Staff wear center shirts. Staff profiles with pictures are posted outside of each classroom. Several staff have their CDA. 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. The center is participating in the Wages program.

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

1. 109.7(1) All staff(within first 3 months of employment) Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.

Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC 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, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.

109.7(2) Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Number not in compliance: All staff have Essentials training the first year of employment. However, trainings taken after the first year have not been approved HHS as valid trainers.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program should meet with CCR&R and IDPH on a regular basis throughout the year, to ensure consistency and compliance. The center may access CCR&R (Brenda O'Holloran) and IDPH CCNC (Mandi Lauderman or Tammy Merrill) to ask for assistance in maintaining licensing regulations throughout the year.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website for more information: <http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants>. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultants can perform an Injury Prevention Checklist both outside and inside. CCNC Mandi Lauderman inspected the outdoor play area in October 2024. She will visit the program again on 6/19/25.

HHS encourages you to contact your Child Care Resource and Referral consultant. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: <http://www.iowaccr.org> Brenda O'Holloran is the facility consultant. Consultant O'Holloran provided IQ4K and slot (for the website) consultation as well as training options on 6/17/25. She has offered to provide services to the facility several times since opening.

Both service providers should be consulted on a regular basis. HHS encourages the program to make arrangements for this to occur quarterly.

*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.