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

Name of Center: New Horizon Academy - Urbandale **Enrollment:** 76 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52444

Street: 12900 Hickory DR **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:** 515-384-9004

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

Date(s) of Visit: 03-25-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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:** 03-31-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual off year visit was completed 3-25-25. Assistant Director Stacy Terrill was present at times during the visit.
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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. Stacy Terrill is the Assistant Director, having education and several years of previous child care experience.

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; this is a center that is not yet one year old. 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 building that is less than one year old.

Playground: The playground safety checks were not documented completed for Jan/Fed 2025; this playground is new. There was discussion with a couple areas in the playground area that had settled and needed additional soil as the settling could present a tripping/fall hazard to the users. This area is located on the north side playground, adjacent to the

water/sewer outside shutoff/accesses. 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 at the time of the initial licensing visit. This playground offers a good variety of outdoor activities for all age groups. There is a work order in place to repair part of the fencing on the infant play ground that had been damaged over the winter.

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. Either child files were reviewed and were in need of annual update and/or physicals; some may have been provided electronically but were not available when the visit occurred. Eight staff files were reviewed; 2 files were missing Iowa Checks or National Check results; one missing CPR certification and two missing or needed updated Mandatory reporter training.. New Horizon Academy has a well established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center offers a new facility that offers a very clean and organized setting.

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.

Staff were observed to have good team work and to be engaged with the children. The children were content.

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

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.

109.9(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: 4

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)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: 3

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

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, Chiropractor 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: 5

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Discussion took place that a work order would be sought to repair ground settling on the north playground by the facility outdoor sewer and water access where soil appeared to have settled but presents a trip/fall hazard.

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

*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.