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

**Name of Center:** Helping Hands Preschool & Childcare Inc **Enrollment:** 53 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30125

**Street:** 4405 Central ST **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51108 **County:** Woodbury

**Mailing Address:** 4405 Central ST, Sioux City, IA, 51108

**Director's Name:** Amanda Wragge **Phone Number:** 712-239-0515

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Joann Solis **E-Mail:** hhpreschoolandchildcare@yahoo.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 08-20-2025

**Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

**LICENSING VISITS**

**New Application** X **Re-Application** **NA**

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-07-2022

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

**Date Inspected:** 08-07-2025

**Comments :** Fire Inspection completed on center and 2 additional school age rooms upstairs increasing their capacity to 151. Measurement was completed by this licensing consultant.

**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 X School-Age

Get-Well X 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 | 19 | 23 | 44 | 65 | 151 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 4

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 08-22-2025

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

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

I completed an unannounced visit on 08/20/25 to the Helping Hands Daycare Center. I was able to speak with the director/owner, Amanda Wragge. Amanda Wragg has an associate degree in childcare supervision and childcare development and many years' experiences working with children. Helping Hands Preschool and Child Care is in a section of the old Hawthorne elementary school. The center serves children infants to school age, Monday through Friday 5:00 am to 6:00 pm. The center has cameras in all the rooms that can be viewed from the office.

There are 53 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit 46 children were present. All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

There is an Infant room where children have access to a diaper changing table. Staff were engaged with infants holding and talking with them. Good sanitary procedures were observed in this room. I observed toys to engage infants. This room does have evacuation cribs.

The two-year-old room also has a changing table for children you are not potty trained. While in ratio in this room the Center may want to consider a floater staff in the room wo assist during the diapering process.

There is a 3-year-old room and a 4-year-old/preschool room. The center has added two new room for their school aged children.

The center has the following areas throughout the room for the children to explore and learn kitchen, toys, books, Legos and puzzles. There was a sufficient number of age-appropriate toys and equipment in each room. Toys were accessible to the children. There is a bathroom and sink in the room. Good room arrangement and child size furniture. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were numbers, colors, children's artwork and the alphabet.

The center utilizes a creative curriculum that incorporates thematic activities to support children's learning. A spiral approach is used, allowing concepts and skills to build on prior knowledge and experiences. Teachers actively guide children in integrating concepts through firsthand exploration and meaningful explanation. Learning is further enhanced by encouraging children's natural curiosity—teachers to listen to their questions and work alongside them to find answers, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
Staff were observed to be actively engaged with the children in their classrooms, interacting at the children's level and supporting their learning and play. The Blue Room was rich with visual aids, including the alphabet, numbers, and sight words, as well as artwork completed by the children, creating a warm and stimulating learning environment.
Artwork, family photos, and pictures of the children and staff were displayed throughout the center, helping to create a welcoming, personal, and child-friendly environment.

The center has two playground areas located adjacent to the building. Both playgrounds feature turf surfacing, with designated areas for toddlers that include playhouses and climbing equipment. Turf is installed around all play structures to

provide safety, and shade is available from one tree as well as two additional shade structures. The playground for older children also includes a basketball court.

Meals are prepared onsite in a large kitchen that is inaccessible to the children. The refrigerators and freezers are clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The center participates in the CACFP program. Menus were posted.

Medication is stored out of reach of the children. The center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kits are stocked to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills and playground checks are documented each month. Radon tests are complete. This center is all electric

The center has three vans for transporting the children to school and for field trips. Parent permission forms are completed for children who leave the center for field trips. The center has van maintenance records.

Goals for the center are to obtain their level 5 in IQ4K standards.

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

Center is on the IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) level 4 out of 5.

Center has update 2 room upstairs for their school age room

They do have transportation to local elementary school in the area.

The daycare center is located in a quiet neighborhood without a lot of traffic.

Staff members have been trained in PBIS - This training equips educators and staff with the knowledge and skills to establish clear behavioral expectations, teach those expectations, and implement interventions to support all students, including those with or without individualized education programs

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

109.9(2)d: 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.
Missing information for contact for dentist address and phone number.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.

The yellow room needs to have the wall patched and painted under the bulletin board. There is also an area under the cubbies that also needs to be patched and painted.

The blue room has an electric outlet that needs to be addressed as there is a hole on the edges of the outlet.

109.12(4)b Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants. Changing table was not sanitized.

Although not cited this worker request that the director make contact with Nurse Consultant Lindsey regarding the use of sunscreen when children are going outside. National performances standards indicate that children should be protected from the sun between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. Protective measures include using shade; sun-protective clothing such as hats and sunglasses; and sunscreen with UV-B and UV-A ray sun protection factor 15 or higher. Parental/guardian permission is required for the use of sunscreen.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Please provide a written response that items needing corrected have been completed by 10/01/25

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.