

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 11-01-2016 to 11-01-2018
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 11-15-2017

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Hand in Hand operates several programs throughout the community offering a variety of early learning experiences and child care opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children. Specifically, Hand in Hand - Westfield has been in operation since August, 2016. Hand in Hand - Westfield is located inside Westfield Elementary School. The year-round program provides full-time and part-time programming to school-age children. Current enrollment is 88.

Hand in Hand multi-site owner and director is Kathy Pruitt. Ms. Pruitt is the original creator and owner of the Hand in Hand sites. Ms. Pruitt holds a degree in Early Childhood Education and Business Management. Ms. Pruitt has achieved the National Administrators Credential (NAC) and is a member of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

On 10/6/2017, all program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Hand in Hand operates numerous sites throughout the community. Hand in Hand offers many different childcare and early learning opportunities to meet the needs of families and children throughout the community.

Hand in Hand has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their programs:
<<http://handinhandinc.com/>>.

On-site supervisor Ms. Heefner has over 12 years of experience working with children including experience from operating her own registered in-home childcare.

The program has support from the school and community. School building is well-maintained. The program collaborates often with the school personnel (custodial staff, administration, food service team) to ensure the children's space is safe and sanitary each day.

The program has an organized parent/program communication center (where required postings and child sign-in/sign-out information is maintained). Hand in Hand has monthly newsletters that include program reminders and curriculum information.

The program offers a character counts curriculum as well as a reading incentive program called "Reading Rainbow". Hand in Hand - Westfield also has a homework help component with motivational rewards.

Hand in Hand incorporates many hands-on learning opportunities which include guest speakers, on-site enrichment experiences, and summer off-site field trip events.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children had access to an array

of materials (including books, imaginative play options, table top games, sensory items, building materials, and crafts). Staff engaged in activities with the children (particularly during large gross motor events in the school gymnasium) and presented materials in an enthusiastic manner. Staff encouraged each child to try different activities and to share program supplies. Staff utilized the teaching of PBIS when needed. Ms. Heefner discussed the "ticket program" which encourages children to be kind and responsible. The daily routine transitions (including arrival from school and snack rituals) went smoothly. Many words of encouragement could be heard throughout the monitoring visit. Children responded well to staff and appeared comfortable at the program.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

To help with sanitation, ensure one child's personal items are stored separately from every other child's personal items. This will also help decrease the spread of respiratory illness and things such as bed bugs, lice, etc. Ms. Heefner reported separate containers to store each child's personal items have been purchased/ordered but have not yet arrived.

Ensure the program's written emergency plans are maintained on-site with licensing paperwork. The emergency plans shall reflect the 10/2016 rule changes.

The program's license remains in full status.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 319-892-6827; email alyons@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

On 11/15/2017, after the off-year visit report, an administrative change occurred. Capacity of this site has increased to 100. The program has daily access to additional space in the school building.

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