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

Name of Center: Lil' Hands Big Dreams **Enrollment:** 88 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36394

Street: 810 North AVE **City:** Norwalk Iowa **Zip** 50211 **County:** Warren

Mailing Address: 730 Main ST, Norwalk, IA, 50211

Director's Name: Mary Ferden **Phone Number:** 515-981-0717

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jamie Grubb **E-Mail:** lilhandsbigdreams@live.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-02-2024

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:** 06-28-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-13-2024

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 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	24	26	40	25	115
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 12-16-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Lil' Hands Big Dreams opened in August 2011. The center has three buildings, located in a row in the same block. The center has secured entrances. The center provides child care for children ages infancy through 3rd grade. All the buildings have secured entrances. Mary and Brian Ferden and the owners. Mary Ferden is the director. Mary was a registered in home child care provider prior to opening up this center. She also had experience in a child care center working at Principal Child Development Center. Jamie Grubb is the on site supervisor. Jamie has been employed at the center since 2013. She has her CDA certification.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's visit. All areas subject to DHS licensing were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrances. Class schedules and lesson plans were also posted. The center has seven classrooms. The classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate supplies and furnishings. Children's artwork is displayed in classrooms.

Mary, Brian and Caitlin were present today. All classrooms were viewed today. There were six infants present today. Two staff were working in this room. Mary was assisting in the infant room today. In the toddlers room, there were seven children present. Two staff were working with this group. PreSchool 1 (2's) had eleven children in attendance. Two staff were working in this room. PreSchool 2 (3's) had ten children present. There was one staff working with this class. The PreK class had thirteen children present. Two staff were working with this class. The school ages classrooms weren't in operation during today's visit.

The center has a full kitchen. There is a cook on staff. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are on a six week rotation. Menus show compliance with CACFP requirements. Today the menu showed snack was veggie straws and apple juice. Children were served veggie straws and water. This worker spoke with Mary and Brian about this violation, who stated they weren't aware the menu wasn't being followed.

The center has a few playground areas. The middle playground has poured rubber for surfacing. There are also concrete paths. The other playground has grass. Fencing is in place for both playgrounds. The center completes playground checklists.

The center owns a few vehicles. The school provides school transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mary has a NAEYC director membership. The center has been nominated as the favorite Warren County Daycare. The center started participating in the Universal PreK/Preschool Program through the local school district the 2018-2019. There are security cameras in the classrooms. The center uses Brightwheel which allows parents to receive communication about their children's activities throughout the day.

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

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking. Menu showed compliance but snack served wasn't compliant as only one food group was served
REPEAT VIOLATION

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) 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 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.