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Glitz & glam for preteen set

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FAIRPORT— Aprile Mickys has always loved caring for children

For eight years, little boys and girls — some getting their first haircuts have — climbed into chairs at her salon, Haircuts for Peanuts on Main Street in Fairport. While they're waiting, kids can romp in a nearby playroom filled with toys.

Even before opening her business, Mickys, 38, a Fairport native, worked for her parents' business, Cuts for Kids in Pittsford. She also traveled to various day care centers and styled children's hair.

Mickys' oldest child, Krystal 19, is a certified hairdresser in her mom's salon. One Friday afternoon, Krystal styled a cool mohawk for a very happy Son Thompson, 5. She then added green temporary hairspray to complete the look. "That's his kindergarten haircut," said his mom, Wendy, smiling.

Mickys has now expanded her business — about five feet away. In February, she opened BeDazzling, a birthday party catering business for girls. For two hours on either a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, birthday girls can invite their friends not only to a party, but to get "dolloed up for the party. Each guest gets a mini-manicure, hairstyle and a little makeup, and can pick something fashionable to wear, from a princess costume to a colorful feather boa. The party themes are "princess," "glamour gal" and "pop star." BeDazzling also provides cake, juice, music and karaoke. The business caters to girls ages 5 through 12, and prices range from \$200 to \$300, depending on the party package. There are additional expenses incurred if goody bags, party invitations, thank-you notes and other items are requested: or if more than eight guests are invited.

"Girls love to be pampered," Mickys said, adding that much of her party business comes via recommendations from parents and their daughters. Brenda Comstock, 35, of Fairport is the BeDazzling party coordinator and says the business has done well. They recently had nine parties in one week, and already have slots booked for this month and as far out as January. Comstock's daughter, Holly, 5, is one of Mickys' regular customers. "It's been wonderful," Comstock said. "The mothers truly appreciate it."

Emily God turned 9 in April and had her birthday party at BeDazzling. Her theme was 'pop star,' and Emily and her friends sang songs from High School Musical on the karaoke machine. "It was really fun; it was really cool" Emily said, adding that the best part was getting her hair done." My daughter loved it," said Jane God. "We had a great experience. They did everything top-notch. I had no stress." Her daughter Bridgette, 13, attended a friend's party last year at BeDazzling. The older girls created 'diva frames,' and a picture of the partygoers was placed inside each frame at the end of event. "They've put a lot of thought into what is attractive" for a particular age group, said Jane God. Brenda and Aprile, she says, 'really make a great team.'

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