Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Montessori Children's House

Provider No.: 7205

Address: 3205 Renner Drive, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Heather Davis

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7123258346

E-Mail: heatherdavismch@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/11/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday		9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			49		49
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Montessori Children's House on 9/23/26. The center moved to a new location in September 2025. Heather Davis is the director. She has an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development. The center opened in September 2006. The morning sessions are from 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM and afternoon sessions are from 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM. There is also full day programming offered from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Programming is offered to three- to six-year-old children. Seventy children are enrolled. There are always at least three teachers and sometimes four teachers present. There were three teachers the day I was present with 29 students present. I met with Heather Davis during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
There is one large programming room that is utilized. The room looks great and has a fun variety of Montessori toys and equipment that are rotated every six weeks. The room was in ratio. The children were having fun in the different centers. The staff had great interactions with the children and provide assistance with individual work with the children. The program's philosophy and curriculum are Montessori based. The center is organized. The materials and equipment are well taken care of. The four- and five-year-olds use themes that revolve around letters, sounds, artists, and some holidays. The staff have individualized lesson plans for each child. The center offers a developmental evaluation through AEA called ASQ3, if needed. It measures fine motor, gross motor, language, and problem-solving skills. The parents complete the evaluation on their child and then the evaluation is scored by Heather and a referral is made to AEA, if needed. Private pay speech therapy is offered at the center. The center has a large library for children. The center uses the Brightwheel app. Parents are provided with updates on Brightwheel.

Nutrition:

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The center provides nutritious snacks. Children that participate in the all-day programming bring their lunch. Proper food storage was observed in the kitchen. Menus are posted on the Brightwheel app and in the kitchen. Thermometers were in the refrigerator/freezer. The children help themselves to a snack when they are ready.

Health and safety:
Radon testing was completed in January 2025 with test results of 1.2 pCi/L. Radon testing is due every five years if the test is below 4.0 pCi/L. Monthly fire and tornado drills were completed. Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. Parents are required to give the children their medications; however, the center keeps emergency medication. There is a child that has an EpiPen and it is inaccessible to children although it is not locked so teachers can easily access it. A fuel burning appliance inspection was completed on 10/24/25. A carbon monoxide detector is by the furnace. The center uses Purell Surface for sanitizing and disinfecting. The center's air conditioner has quit working. Although it is not necessarily needed at this time of year, it should be replaced by summer of next year.

Playground:
The center uses the outdoor grass area for activities. There is also a cement slab. They have a sand table, mud kitchen, and gardening. Heather identifies it as an outdoor classroom. The center is not documenting playground inspections. I emailed Heather a playground inspection checklist on 9/25/26.

Transportation:
Daily transportation services aren't provided.

Administrative records:
Two staff files were read and were in excellent order. Eight children's files were read and were in good order. All of the children's files were missing permission for the center to secure emergency care. Heather thought it was on their intake packet, but it is not. Heather sent home a form the day I was present to have parents fill out so the center will have permission to secure emergency treatment. One child did not have a physical exam.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Heather is knowledgeable of the DHHS rules and has excellent skills as the director. The center is a wonderful resource for the community. The center provides a monthly newsletter. Heather and her staff are very positive, creative, and are proud of the program. The center receives grants for equipment and supplies. Heather identified their strengths as having individual instruction for the children and the teachers are very positive and caring. Heather also believes Brightwheel for daily communication is a strength and they have excellent communication with parents. Heather will work with CCR&R when needed. Their goals are to increase curriculum for science and all continents.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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. The center did not have a form to gives the center permission to seek emergency treatment.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Monthly inspections have not been completed.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 11/1/26 to 11/1/28.

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Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Heather her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Heather reported that all staff have done behavior management training.

I spoke with my supervisor about combining three-year-olds with six-year-olds. The center primarily serves three- to five-year-old children; however, some children turn six years old during the year. This is permissible as long as the ratio remains 1:12 and they continue to follow Montessori Curriculum and individualize the curriculum for each child. No children over the age of six years old may be combined.

Date: 09/25/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.