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: 12/09/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/11/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] 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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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 12/9/25. 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. Eighty-nine children are enrolled. There are always at least three teachers and sometimes four teachers present. There were four teachers the day I was 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 work areas and some were outside playing. 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 and the materials/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 the children. 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 and lesson plans on Brightwheel. The lesson plans are individualized for each child. The daily schedule is not posted as the schedule varies for each child. The center is learning how to address the all-day children and outside time in the new building. The center will post a schedule.

Nutrition:
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.

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/tornado drills were completed; however, they were not documented for November. 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. The center uses Purell Surface for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Playground:

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The center uses the outdoor grass area for activities. There is also a cement slab for riding toys. The center is not documenting playground inspections.

Transportation:
Daily transportation services aren't provided.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in excellent order. Children's files were read and were in good order. One child's file was missing the dentist's name and number.

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 etc. Heather identified their strengths as individual instruction for the children and the teachers are very positive and caring. Their goals are to increase curriculum for science and all continents.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: One of the children's files reviewed did not have a dentist name and phone number.

109.10(13)b: Fire/tornado drills were not practiced every month. They were not practiced and/or documented for November.

109.11(4)b: Monthly playground inspections/outdoor play area 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 11/1/24 to 11/1/26.

Date: 12/15/2025

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**.