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

Name of Center: Montessori System School **Enrollment:** 43 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22786

Street: 3220 Terrace Dr **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 3220 Terrace Drive, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Candy Naaktgeboren **Phone Number:** 319-266-0745

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Tetmeyer **E-Mail:** montessoricf@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-04-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** X **No** **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 12-03-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	16	18	54	0	88
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2025 to 01-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 12-16-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 12/04/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Montessori System School in Cedar Falls. Candy Naaktgeboren is the director but she was not present during my visit. She has been the director for thirty-two years and has been employed by Montessori System School for over thirty years. She has worked for the center in several capacities. Ms. Naaktgeboren has a BA in Human Services and has completed Montessori training. Jennifer Tetmeyer is the on-site supervisor. She started with the program in September 2023 as an assistant director. Prior to this she worked at the program as an assistant Guide. Cassie Naaktgeboren is the assistant director. She has been with the program since August 2021. She has a master's degree in music. There are 23 staff members employed by the program.

Montessori System School is in St. Timothy's United Methodist Church. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 4:30 pm. It operates only during the school year and serves children eighteen months old through children up to six-years-old. There are currently 43 children enrolled.

The program operates out of the following rooms: the young preschool class operates out of two rooms for children ages eighteen months through three and one-half years old, the preschool class operates out of two rooms for children ages three and one-half through five-years-old and there is a daycare room for the young preschool children and a daycare room for the preschool children. Daycare is provided for children who attend the preschool programs. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. There is an area for circle time in the classrooms.

Montessori materials are classified in five major areas: Practical Life, Sensorial, Number Work, Language and Cultural. The program also focuses on Writing and Science. Workstations are established in each of these areas and children move at their own pace. The workstations were arranged so there was plenty of space for the children move between activities. Materials were in good order and offered a lot of choices and variety for the children.

The young preschool class has the option of a four-day program (Monday through Thursday) and five-day program (Monday through Friday). They both run from 9:00-11:30 am. Samantha Wohlert and Sara Wells are the lead Guides in the young preschool classrooms.

The preschool program offers a four-day program (Monday through Thursday) and a five-day program (Monday through Friday), both from 9:00-11:45 am. There is an extended day preschool class offered for children over the age of four-years-old based on readiness from 12:30-3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. Katy Meyerhoff-Schares is the lead Guide in the preschool class.

The daycare rooms are used as transition rooms. The children are brought to the rooms before and after preschool classes and before nap time.

There is a bathroom located on each floor of the center. The bathroom on the lower level has one toilet, one urinal, and one sink. There is also a changing table. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. The bathroom on the upper level has two toilets and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms available in the

church.

Cots are used to nap. All the children nap in the fellowship hall. Bedding was stored appropriately.

The curriculum is based on the Montessori principals of teaching, and they also incorporate other childhood teachings. The preschool room is using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. They have more group activities than other Montessori schools. According to the parent handbook, "The goals of Montessori for children are several: it encourages self-discipline, self-knowledge, and independence, as well as enthusiasm for learning, an organized approach to problem-solving, and intellectual and social skills." Teachers plan the units together. They bring ideas for activities and add them to unit/activity calendars. The calendars are used as lesson plans to outline the programs activities each day. The program teaches a different culture each holiday to accommodate the various nationalities that are enrolled in the program. Works are changed out about every two weeks.

The teacher's complete development assessments and social-emotional assessments on the children. The provide parent teacher conferences twice each year.

Ms. Naaktgeboren teaches musical yoga to all the children in the program twice each week. This helps with gross motor movement and Ms. Naaktgeboren uses songs that align with the theme to tie it all together. The children can work on self-recognition through self-breathing or movement. Rosie Richards teaches a Spanish class twice each week for the older children in small groups.

Ms. Naaktgeboren states they also have a lot of outside time and use a nature based curriculum.

The rooms communicate with hand-held, portable, two-way radios. There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classrooms, daycare rooms, office and kitchen. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program rooms. Evacuation diagrams must be placed near all the exits in the fellowship hall/gym. A daily schedule was posted in the preschool room. Post a daily schedule in the young preschool room and the childcare room that includes the entire day. Unit/activity calendars were available for review in the preschool rooms.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Documentation for fire and tornado drills is maintained in each room.

I reviewed the documentation of monthly playground inspections.

The program did install a radon mitigation system in the past and it required additional work in 2013. They have a device to read radon levels attached to the system. A radon test was completed in December 2024. Results were within EPA guidelines. Because the program has a radon mitigation system, they are only required to do a radon test every five years.

The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted.

A carbon monoxide detector was on site on the lower level in the classrooms on the ceiling as part of the safety system. On the upper level the carbon monoxide detector is in the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/03/24.

The program does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The school has lunch delivered from a local Hy-Vee Store. The cost of this is included in their tuition. HyVee provides a four week rotation of lunch menus. Snacks are provided by the program. Ms. Tetmeyer created a four week rotation of snack menus. Menus and allergies/dietary restrictions were posted. No outside food is allowed to be brought into the program.

Meals are served to the children already dished out on trays. The children eat lunch in the fellowship hall. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. The morning snack is eaten in the rooms and the afternoon snack is eaten in the fellowship hall. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present.

There is a refrigerator in each of the classrooms and thermometers were present.

The center uses Oxivir Tb to sanitize the food tables and to disinfect the changing tables.

The program uses the Brightwheel app for communication with parents. They can take pictures of the children to send parents throughout the day. Parents also sign in and out with the Brightwheel app and it is used for billing.

The school has two separate fenced outdoor play areas. One is for the younger children and one is for the older children. Woodchips are used as cushion surfacing in both areas. Additional woodchips are added each year. In the area for the

younger children there is climbing equipment with a tunnel and slide. There are also playhouses, riding toys, benches, sensory tables and picnic tables. There is a slide with a fall height greater than 18 inches on the grass. This slide requires fall surfacing and must be moved over to the area with woodchips.

In the area for larger children there is climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There are picnic tables, a playhouse and a second climbing structure. Trees and the building are used to provide shade in both areas.

The fellowship hall is also used for gross motor activities when the children are unable to go outside.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. You must post the mandatory reporter poster on the parent board.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Parents must provide at least one emergency contact other than themselves. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

The teachers in the program are enthusiastic and provide a fun learning environment for the children. The multi-age classrooms are great for developing mentorship and leadership among the children. The child-directed classroom environment teaches the children independence. The teachers were observed on the floor teaching the children how to use the learning materials. Staff members are encouraging and provided the children with praise. They are patient and use positive redirection when necessary. Staff members were using songs to teach the children "opposites" during group time. The children were laughing and enjoying themselves. Teachers have great teamwork and a good classroom routine. They were flexible and offered to help children with the learning materials.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Naaktgeboren states they have very nurturing and experienced staff members.

Ms. Naaktgeboren states the children are well cared for and they staff members are truly invested in taking great care of the children and teaching the children.

Ms. Naaktgeboren states they have lower ratios and they are more able to focus on the social emotional developmental needs of the children. They use positive guidance strategies and are more mindful of developmentally appropriate milestones because of low ratios.

Ms. Naaktgeboren states they have improved their menus. They met with HyVee personnel about the changes they would like to see because of the allergies and dietary restrictions they have in the program.

Ms. Naaktgeboren teaches musical yoga to all the children in the program twice each week. She has a You Tube channel for musical yoga. Rosie Richards teaches a Spanish class twice each week.

The program has an IQ4K level 3 that expires on 04/30/26.

The program is using the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and for billing.

The program is very organized. The administrative team sends out a detailed plan for each day so staff members know where they need to be at what time and what they need to be doing.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Jennifer Tetmeyer as the on-site supervisor.

*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.