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

**Name of Center:** Montessori Children's House **Enrollment:** 144 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25423

**Street:** 1505 42nd St **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

**Mailing Address:** 1505 42nd St, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

**Director's Name:** Shyamli (Rini) Kumar **Phone Number:** 515-225-1073

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Denise Springer **E-Mail:** director@themontessorichildrenshouse.net

**Date(s) of Visit:** 11-14-2022

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-06-2021

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

**Date Inspected:** 02-24-2022

**Comments :** West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

**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 X Other 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 | 8 | 15 | 133 | 30 | 186 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 11-14-2022

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/14/22. The on-site supervisor and office manager were present for portions of this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Montessori Children's House is located in West Des Moines. The center is a non-profit program and is overseen by a Board. The program has been in existence for over 50 years and is accredited by Montessori Center International (MCI). The director is Rini Kumar and the on-site supervisor is Denise Springer. Rini has been the director since 2007 and with Montessori overall since 2002. Rini has a BA degree and is also an approved trainer for Montessori teaching. Denise has an accounting degree and has been with Montessori Children's House for over 15 years.

Montessori teaching methods are used in all of the classrooms. The six areas of learning children are exposed to are practical life, sensory, mathematics, language arts, cultural activities, and creative learning. Children learn at their own pace with the teachers as their guides. Montessori teaching promotes multi-age groups because the younger children learn from the older children and the older children benefit by teaching the younger children. A child must be 18 months of age to become enrolled and children enrolled at a later age must have prior Montessori experience. Special subjects of Art, Music, and Spanish are taught by teachers on certain days. Parents may choose full-time or part-time options for their child.

There are a total of 11 classrooms, although not all of them are in use at this time. There is summer programming for roughly five weeks in the summer. Those hours are 8:30am - 5:30pm.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities that included, but were not limited to playing on the playground, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms, participating in a large group activity facilitated to staff, and washing hands. Staff and children were conversing in every classroom.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center is celebrating their 54th anniversary this year.

There is a secure entrance into the building. There are also security cameras located in several areas outside.

The center utilizes their nurse consultant as needed.

Monthly staff meetings are held. In addition to these meetings, monthly study/group discussions are held with all staff.

Each classroom has a monthly newsletter that is sent home to parents. Every other month, there is a "center wide" newsletter sent to parents. Many teachers have on-line blogs (Google Classroom) that parents can view on the center's website.

All lead teachers have degrees. There are many tenured staff members who continue to work at this center as well as a few newer staff members.

There is a phone in each classroom. A PA system was installed at the end of 2013. An emergency weather alert system was also installed.

Each classroom has their own fenced in court yard area connected to the classroom that is accessible by the back doors to each classroom.

Staff and Board member pictures are posted in the main parent board area.

Some remodeling has been done to the interior of the building/offices.

As an option/courtesy to parents, staff will go outside to pick-up and drop-off children to parents curbside at the beginning and end of the day. Parent involvement is also stressed.

There is a janitorial cleaning company that cleans the center daily.

There are staff in-service days three times out of the year for staff to get training completed.

Staff were again engaged with children at different learning stations/activities that children were involved with.

The center does online enrollment.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1 staff member file has a current physical now, but it was done after employment started.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
1. There was one bolt that needed to be covered in one of the three - six classrooms. This consultant let those staff know of this issue.
2. There are some bolts exposed on the railroad ties that will need to be removed.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing is due every two years and was last tested 10/11/21 - 10/14/21. All classrooms came back with radon levels below 4.0.

The furnaces are checked quarterly and were last inspected 9/1/22.

It was previously noted that for transportation/field trips, parents are required to transport their own child to/from the field trip destination. There are some parent drivers as well, but they go through record checks as required if in ratio, alone with children other than their own, and/or have direct responsibility for child care.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed some at the visit.

It was noted that the center is in the process of getting quotes to reside part of the back side of the building.

*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.