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

Name of Center: Montessori School Of Iowa City **Enrollment:** 102 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24263

Street: 374 Holiday Rd **City:** Coralville Iowa **Zip** 52241 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address: 374 Holiday Rd, Coralville, IA, 52241

Director's Name: Terrah Taggart **Phone Number:** 319-338-9650

On-Site Supervisor(s): Beth Zanzie **E-Mail:** headofschool@iowacity-montessori.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-22-2024

Comments : Does Comply.

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: 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		34	120	47	201
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 11-18-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker arrived at Montessori School of Iowa City for an annual visit on 11/8/2024. The center provides child care for two year old children to school aged children. They are open Monday-Friday 7:30am to 6:00pm. They have 102 children enrolled.

The center is located inside of a commercial building. The program uses eight classrooms, an art room, music room, multipurpose room, kitchen and staff break room. The center is nonprofit and overseen by a board of directors. The center's fire inspection was completed on 10/22/2024.

All program space was observed on the date of my visit.

The director is Terrah Taggart. Terrah has a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a minor in Psychology, and endorsements in Reading, Language Arts, and Speech Communication/Theatre. She started in 8/2019.

The on-site supervisor is Beth Zanzie. Beth holds an American Montessori Society Primary (3-6 years old) credential and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education specializing in Early Childhood. Beth started in 8/2004.

Nutritional practices were checked. The center provides lunch. Parents provide snack on a rotating basis. The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center followed handwashing procedures. The center had a fully stocked first aid kit.

The center utilizes the Montessori curriculum.

The center's policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed. The center had all required postings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The school's mission statement is as follows: To provide authentic Montessori education that serves the child's intrinsic motivation to learn and is inclusive, sustainable, and holistic. The values of the school are: • We value the Montessori educational philosophy which includes • A child's intrinsic motivation to learn • Excellence in teaching the whole child customized to student's intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs and abilities • We value respect for and appreciation of • Diversity in all its forms • The individual, self, others, and the environment • We value the entire school community, including students, families, faculty, and staff within the larger global community.
-Terrah Taggart (Head of School and Director), Beth Zanzie (Primary Teacher and On-Site Supervisor), and Judy Rouse (Office Manager) work well together to ensure HHS and Montessori compliance.
-The center is accredited through the State of Iowa Department of Education for non public Kindergarten to 5th grade

programming.
-They are able to accept vouchers for school aged care.
-The children have access to a wide variety of educational and engaging activities.
-The school has guinea pigs and hermit crabs as classroom pets.
-The school caters from Preferred Food services to ensure a nutritional meal is provided.

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

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
-All prescription medications must have a label. Medications that are expired must be returned to the parents for appropriate disposal.

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene.
-Children did not wash their hands as needed.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
-Staff purses and backpacks must be stored inaccessible to the children at all times.
https://poisoncontrol.utah.edu/sites/g/files/zrelqx281/files/media/documents/2021/PursePoster.pdf
-The director must ensure that staff know how to appropriately clean, sanitize and disinfect. Please review:
https://cchp.ucsf.edu/resources?field_resource_tags=741

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center would benefit from working with the local Nurse consultant who could review medication, hand washing, and cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The following agencies are available to provide consultation, support, and educational opportunities:
CACFP: https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program
Child Care Resource and Referral: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
Early Childhood Iowa: https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
First Children's Finance: https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/
Healthy Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants
Iowa AEYC: http://www.iowaaeyc.org/
Iowa After School Alliance: https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/
Iowa State University: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/early-childhood
4c's of Johnson County: https://www.iowa4cs.com/

*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.