Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cedar Valley Montessori School

Provider No.: 25066

Address: 110 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

County: Linn

Director's Name: Dawn Gettler

On-Site Supervisor: Mallory Rosales

Phone Number: 3193655155

E-Mail: headofschool@cvmontessori.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/29/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/14/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		12	128	10	150
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Cedar Valley Montessori School (CVMS) is a nonprofit program located in a building owned by the City of Cedar Rapids. CVMS commenced operations in 1971.

Director or CVMS Head of School is Dawn Gettler. Ms. Gettler has been in the director role since October 2025. Ms. Gettler has a BA degree in finance, has been employed with this program since fall of 2010 (including holding the CVMS Head of Operations role), has much experience working with children and continues to participate in annual professional development. On-site supervisor Mallory Rosales has been in the role since October 2025. Ms. Rosales has a BA degree in communications, has been employed with CVMS since 2024, has experience working with children and continues to participate in annual professional development.

On 10/29/2025, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in multi-aged classrooms. The building has sufficient restrooms and hand washing sinks. On the day of this monitoring visit, directresses were observed warmly greeting families and children as they arrived for the day. Classical music was overheard gently playing in various areas of the programming space. Areas of study were clearly visible throughout the classrooms and included the fall season, leaves, and pumpkins. Work cycles observed included pumpkin crafts, lacing work, lessons in practical life tools, peg stacking, cooking experience, watercolor work, puzzles, punch outs, transferring and pouring activities, and sensory experiences. Individual work mats, work trays or worktables were observed to be used to delineate a child's work area. On 10/29/2025, ratio was observed. Staff were observed to be actively engaged with the children in activities including outdoor large gross motor play, snack rituals and routine transitions. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of CVMS is "…to remain consistent with what Dr. Maria Montessori said, did and wrote to create a high quality, individualized early education experience for children ages two through six which will allow children to progress at their own rate along their developmental path."

CVMS has the following website for families to learn more about the program: https://cvmontessori.org/.

Since the 2024 annual license visit, Dawn Gettler stepped into the director role as Head of School. A new on-site supervisor, Marie Rosales has also been hired. Ms. Gettler continues to put noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a confidential systematic way. The management team (e.g. Ms. Gettler, Ms. Rosales) is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. On 10/29/2025, Ms. Gettler discussed some recent management and staff changes. Ms. Gettler acknowledged having a great team of new and seasoned employees who are reliable, innovative, and enjoy working with children in a Montessori environment.

As of 10/29/2025, CVMS was again found to be maintaining most required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Curriculum is Montessori based and includes materials being arranged in a purposeful manner. Curriculum also has outdoor extensions of the indoor classrooms and regularly offers enrichments, specialty clubs, guest speaker events, and field trip experiences. On 10/29/2025, Ms. Gettler discussed future goals to help improve outdoor large gross motor curriculum including adding and replacing outdoor equipment.

CVMS continues to have and update policies and procedures including those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, Ms. Gettler discussed how staff help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following code required policies and procedures as well as their own policies and procedures. Ms. Gettler also talked about how CVMS has continued support from their board of directors, building owner and new cleaning company as to daily operations and building-grounds conditions and repairs.

CVMS has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This program has successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, repeated relocation incidents, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

109.9(2)k Any child with special health needs, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
- Child file (FS) reviewed lacked required documentation of written emergency plan (e.g. action steps, rescue medications).

109.11(8)c All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of current annual all fuel-burning appliance inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Evey child accessible lower cabinet shall contain child safe materials or be child proofed (e.g. locked, secured). Items that shall not be accessible to children include staff purses and supplies for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

Please review ratio and careful supervision rules with each and every staff. These rules are required to be followed at all times including when children access the hallway cubby areas, restroom areas, etc. For younger children, staff shall

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

accompany each child to and from the cubby area, restroom area, etc. each and every time. For older children, staff shall either accompany the child to and from the hallway cubby area, restroom areas, etc. or position themselves in a manner to be able to see and hear each child accessing the areas outside the classroom each and every time.

Update all emergency numbers and plans (e.g. child special health needs) posted in the classrooms as they were not current on the day of this monitoring visit.

When licensing completed this annual visit, discussion included the "Growing Iowa" grant funds designed to help support childcare in Iowa. Specifically, this program is in need of improvements to the outdoor play space including replacing outdoor climbing equipment, replacing outdoor sensory bins, increasing loose large gross motor materials (e.g. balance items, balls, bubbles), increasing outdoor child rest areas, and adding additional gardening-nature items. The "Growing Iowa" funds we discussed actually ended on 9/25/2025 in the Linn County area. However, please continue to ensure your contact information is updated with CCR&R as information about replenishment of these funds, as well as new future funding opportunities, continue to be primarily communicated through CCR&R.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 11/20/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.