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

Name of Center: Village Montessori, Chiqui-School LLC **Enrollment:** 64 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52133

Street: 2142 Indianola AVE **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50315 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2142 Indianola AVE, Des Moines, IA, 50315

Director's Name: Maria Lopez **Phone Number:** 515-214-2739

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** miss-maria87@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-13-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-22-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-25-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X 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	21	15	26		62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 03-04-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This center opened in May 2023. This building has been occupied by other daycare centers prior to Village Montessori "Chiqui" opening in May 2023. The center is located in a single standing building. There is a secured entrance. There are security cameras in all classrooms, the playground and the parking lot. the The center serves children ages infancy through school age. Maria Lopez is the owner and director of the center. Maria was a registered in home child care provider for seven years prior to opening up the center.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed during both visits. Mandatory postings are in place in the entrance. Class schedules and lesson plans were posted in each classroom. Children's coats and backpacks are kept in cubbies.

The center has four areas of program space. There is an infant classroom that has a capacity of eight. There is a large classroom that has a capacity of twenty eight that is being used for a toddler classroom. This room is divided. There are two's on one side and toddlers on one side. There is another large classroom that is being used as a preschool classroom that has a capacity of eighteen. There is an area by the kitchen and bathrooms being used for the school age children. This area has a capacity of eight.

Maria assisted with today's visit. The infant classroom wasn't being used today. There were boppy pillows in the classroom. This worker explained to Maria that boppy pillows aren't to be used in child care centers due to the safety risk they pose to infants. Boppy pillows are not made for the intended purpose to prop up young infants and this poses a safety risk for infants to suffocate. Maria said they will remove the boppy pillows. The toddlers class had four children present. There was one staff working with this group. The 2's class had four children present. One staff was working with this class. The 3/4's classroom had ten children present. There were two staff working with this group. The 4/5's / school are area wasn't being used today. The 4/5's age group was combined with the 3/4's today.
Children were observed playing in small groups and individually. Children were doing table activities in the 3/4's room. Staff were playing amongst the children and assisting the children with their activities. There was a concern with a staff repeatedly a child who was awake to get back on his cot. This worker addressed the issue and told Maria all staff need to be trained about rest time, that children need to be allowed to do a quiet activity off of their cot if they don't fall asleep within 20 to 30 minutes. Maria did talk to that staff member and said she would ensure all staff are aware that this wasn't appropriate.

The center has a full kitchen and a cook. The center recently got on the CACFP program. The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus were reviewed and show the center follows CACFP guidelines.

The center has a playground with fencing. There is a new climbing structure and new outdoor toys. Turf is in place for surfacing.
There is an area outside that is not used by the daycare. There is a large climbing structure that is in bad condition and not safe for use.

The center doesn't own a vehicle. The center doesn't provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Maria has been involved in child care for several years. Maria worked with CCR&R while a registered in home provider and has contacted CCR&R for support since opening. The center uses the Playground App for communication and administration record purposes. There are security cameras throughout the center.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
Some staff didn't complete trainings during the required time frame.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Some staff didn't have SING or federal record checks done at required time.

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.
A few staff didn't have physicals completed as required.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Some children's files were missing physicals or current physicals.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
Maria didn't complete radon testing during the first year.

109.11(7)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.
Maria didn't have a furnace inspection done.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
There was small climbing structures in the toddler and 2 year classrooms that were taller than 18 inches. The center didn't have sufficient fall zone mats under the structures. This worker told Maria to remove the structures until she purchased appropriate mats.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center has a full license.

Maria worked on the getting staff files, getting the certificates to show staff had completed trainings after the visit. Maria did SING checks on staff that needed them done during the visit. She worked on getting other violations corrected also.

*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.