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

Name of Center: Montessori Children's House **Enrollment:** 97 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 7205

Street: 400 Cloverdale Dr **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51503 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 25490 295th St, Neola, IA, 51559

Director's Name: Heather Davis **Phone Number:** 712-325-8346

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** heatherdavismch@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-16-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-10-2023

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			35		35
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 10-25-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Montessori Children's House on 10-16-2023. The program is located in the basement of St. John's United Church of Christ Church and is in a residential neighborhood. Heather Davis is the director. She has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development. The center opened in September of 2006. Morning (9:00 am- 11:30 am) and afternoon sessions (12:30 pm to 3:00 pm), as well as full day programming on Tuesday and Thursdays (4 & 5 year olds) are provided to children three to five years old during the school year. 97 children are enrolled in the program. I met with Heather Davis during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
Three program rooms are utilized, they look great and have a fun variety of Montessori equipment that is rotated on a regular basis. The new flooring and new shelving look wonderful. The rooms were observed and were in ratio, the children were having fun having in the work areas. The staff had great interactions with the children and provide individual work with the children. The program philosophy and curriculum are Montessori based. The center is organized and the materials/equipment are well taken care of. The four and five year old rooms use themes that revolve around letters, sounds, artists and some holidays.
The staff have individualized lesson plans for the children.
The center offers a developmental evaluation through AEA called ASQ3, it measures fine motor, gross motor, language and problem solving skills. The parents complete the evaluation on their child and then the evaluation is scored by Heather and a referral is made to AEA if needed.

Nutrition:
The center provides a nutritious snack. Children that participate in the all day program bring their lunch.
Proper food storage was observed in the kitchen.

Health and safety:
Radon testing was completed in February 2022 with test results of 3.9 pCi/L and 2.8 pCi/L. The church installed a fresh air vent.
will update the other staff criminal record checks and will print the record check results page. She is completing the account to use the field print location in Council Bluffs for the fingerprints for the national record check.
The annual fuel burning inspection is needed, Heather said she will have this scheduled by the end of October 2023.
Monthly fire/tornado drills were completed.
Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication.

Playground:
The center uses the outdoor grass area for activities.

Transportation:
Daily transportation services aren't provided.

Administrative records:
One staff persons physical form was lost and she needs to get the DHS physical form completed again.
Heather has updated her criminal record check and will update the other staff criminal record checks and will print the record check results page. She is completing the account to use the field print location in Council Bluffs for the fingerprints for the national record check.
Heather employs two full time staff. She meets with her staff daily. Heather's mom is a volunteer.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Heather is knowledgeable of the DHS rules and has excellent skills as the director. The center is a wonderful resource for the community. The center provides a monthly newsletter.
Heather and her staff are very positive, creative and are proud of the program.

The center receives grants, new flooring was installed in the summer of 2022. They have new shelving.

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

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.
Heather will update the staff criminal record checks and will print the record check results page. She is completing the account to use the field print location in Council Bluffs for the fingerprints for the national record check.
Please let me know the dates of the criminal record check and national record check results.

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
One staff persons physical form was lost and she needs to get the DHS physical form completed again.

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.
The annual fuel burning inspection is needed, Heather said she will have this scheduled by the end of October 2023.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 11-1-2022 to 11-1-2024.
Off year licensing visit 10-16-2023.

*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.