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

Name of Center: Montessori Children's House **Enrollment:** 95 **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: 10-15-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 10-17-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Montessori Children's House on 10-15-2024. 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. 95 children are enrolled. 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 rooms were in ratio, the children were having fun having in the work areas. The staff had great interactions with the children and provide assistance with 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. Please review radon information in your handbook as the rules regarding the length of time between radon testing has changed. The church installed a fresh air vent.
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:
Staff files were read and were in good order.
Child files were read and were in good order.

Heather employs two full time staff and her mother volunteers.

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 for equipment and supplies etc.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 11-1-2024 to 11-1-2026.

*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.