



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL  
LANSING

Michelle Richard  
ACTING DIRECTOR

4/3/2024

Kinderhaus Montessori PreSchool  
701 N. Linden St.,  
Marshall, MI, 49068

License Number: DC130400330  
Special Investigation Number: SI-00120445

Dear Kinderhaus Montessori PreSchool,

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing bureau received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8182(7)	If there are children of mixed ages in the same room or well-defined space, then the ratio and group size is determined by the age of the youngest child, unless each group of children is clearly separated and the appropriate child care staff member-to-child ratios and group sizes, if applicable, for each age group are maintained.

The details of the allegations are in the attached report. To investigate the allegations:

- I interviewed: program director/licensee designee, child care staff members, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 3/20/2024

As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

<b>During this special investigation:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook. This report and any related corrective action plans will be online for parents to review under the [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#).

Please review this report for accuracy and contact your consultant, Kari Shepherd at (517) 582-8039 or [shepherdk6@michigan.gov](mailto:shepherdk6@michigan.gov). In the event that Kari Shepherd is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Kari Shepherd, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL  
CHILD CARE LICENSING**

**Report Type:** Special Investigation Report

**Date of Report:** 4/3/2024

<b>Special Investigation Number</b>	<b>Complaint/Incident Receipt Date</b>
SI-00120445	3/18/2024
<b>Investigation Initiation Date</b>	<b>Report Due Date</b>
3/20/2024	5/19/2024
<b>License Number</b>	<b>Licensee Name(s)</b>
DC130400330	Kinderhaus Montessori PreSchool
<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Licensee Designee(s)</b>
Kinderhaus Montessori School	Becky Jean Samra
<b>Program Type</b>	<b>Central Administrator(s)</b>
Center	
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Program Director(s) Name</b>
112	
<b>Facility Address</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>
701 N. Linden St., Marshall, MI, 49068	701 N. Linden St., Marshall, MI, 49068
<b>Facility Phone Number</b>	<b>Facility Email Address</b>
2697814062	becky@kinderhausmontessorischool.org
<b>Original License Issuance Date</b>	<b>License Status:</b>
8/21/2019	Regular
<b>License Effective Date:</b>	<b>License Expiration Date:</b>
2/23/2024	2/22/2026

**ALLEGATION(S)**

**Violation Established?**

The facility is often out of compliance at 4:00 PM in at least one classroom. Ages are combined against policy.		No
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**METHODOLOGY**

Date	Activity
3/20/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00120445
3/20/2024	Special Investigation Initiated via On-site Onsite from approximately 3:30 to 4:45 PM. Interviewed Licensee Designee, Becky Samra; child care staff member (CCSM) 1; CCSM 2; CCSM 3; CCSM 4; CCSM 5; CCSM 6; CCSM 7; CCSM 8; CCSM 9; CCSM 10; CCSM 11; CCSM 12; and CCSM 13.

3/26/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Interviewed Child A and B's Mother, Child C's Mother, and Child D's Mother. Attempted phone contact with Child E and F's Mother and Child G and H's Mother.
3/27/2024	Contact – Document Received Received staff sign-in and sign-out sheets from previous three weeks from Licensee Designee, Becky Samra.
3/28/2024	Contact – Phone Call Received Interviewed Child G and H's Mother via telephone.
4/2/2024	Exit Conference Exit conference with Program Director via telephone.

**ALLEGATION: The facility is often out of compliance at 4:00 PM in at least one classroom. Ages are combined against policy.**

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 3/20/2024, I conducted an unannounced onsite inspection. I discussed the allegation with Program Director (PD) and interviewed child care staff member (CCSM) 1; CCSM 2; CCSM 3; CCSM 4; CCSM 5; CCSM 6; CCSM 7; CCSM 8; CCSM 9; CCSM 10; CCSM 11; CCSM 12; and CCSM 13.

PD stated that the child care staff members and administrators of the program are very aware of ratios and keeping group sizes compliant with licensing rules and regulations. PD stated that when age groups combine, they always follow the age of the youngest child to determine ratios, but that they typically do not combine age groups. PD stated that they always have extra child care staff members or administrators available to step into classrooms to maintain compliance with all ratio and group size requirements. PD stated that staffing is currently going well, although it can sometimes get tricky when child care staff members call in, but that the facility always has extra people to accommodate unplanned absences.

CCSM 1 stated that she leaves once children leave to go home and her classroom always maintains a one adult to four children ratio. CCSM 1 stated that there are extra child care staff members available to support when needed.

CCSM 2 stated that classrooms are never left out of ratio. CCSM 2 has not heard of any child care staff members talking about being left with too many children.

CCSM 3 stated that she is not aware of any instances when classrooms are left out of ratio or group size requirements at any time.

CCSM 4 stated that there are always extra child care staff members or administrators available to fill in when child care staff members are unexpectedly absent.

CCSM 5 stated that her classroom maintains one adult to four children ratio and if they ever combine age groups outside on the playground that they use the one adult to four children ratio at all times.

CCSM 6 stated that they almost always keep groups of the same ratio of children together, but if they have to combine that they use the youngest child's age to determine ratio.

CCSM 7 stated that child care staff members in her classroom do frequent head counts to ensure that they are within ratio numbers and group size requirements. CCSM 7 stated that she does not leave her work day until the classroom is in ratio with one child care staff member left.

CCSM 8 stated that she is unaware of instances when classrooms are left out of ratio. CCSM 8 stated that she does not leave at the end of the day until her classroom is within ratio with one or two child care staff members left.

CCSM 9 stated that she has not heard of any issues with ratio or group size in the past, and that the classrooms very rarely combine age groups.

CCSM 10 stated that she is unaware of any instances of being out of ratio within any classrooms in the program.

CCSM 11 stated that there are extra child care staff members available to help with ratio if needed.

CCSM 12 stated that her classroom maintains one adult to eight children ratio and she does not leave until ratio can be maintained with one child care staff member.

CCSM 13 stated that one classroom may be out of compliance with ratio very briefly until an extra child care staff member or administrator can be called over to help, but it does not happen very frequently. CCSM 13 stated that this used to happen more often, but now that the program is fully staffed, it is happening very rarely.

On 3/26/2024, I interviewed Child A and B's Mother, Child C's Mother, and Child D's Mother via telephone. I attempted phone contact with Child E and F's Mother and Child G and H's Mother. As of the writing of this report, I have not made contact with Child E and F's Mother.

Child A and B's Mother stated that it is difficult to know if there are appropriate numbers of child care staff members with the number of children in each classroom because parents are not typically entering the classrooms. She stated that children are called

over the walkie talkie when getting picked up and the children walk with a child care staff member to the area where the parent is.

Child C's Mother stated that when she has entered the classroom, she has typically seen three child care staff members with eight or nine infants. She stated that the child care staff members love Child C and seem to take very good care of her.

Child D's Mother stated that when she has picked up Child D, she has noticed two child care staff members with no more than eight infants. When Child D's Mother picks Child D up later in the day, there is typically one child care staff member with three or four infants. She believes there are adequate child care staff members to children in the classroom.

On 3/27/2024, I received child care staff member timesheets, time off request documentation, and an updated staffing plan from PD. Upon comparing these documents to the child attendance records I received on 3/20/2024, there were no documented incidences of any classroom being out of compliance in terms of ratio or group size.

On 3/28/2024, I interviewed Child G and H's Mother via telephone. She stated that Child G and Child H have attended the program since they were newborns, and she has never had any concerns about their care or supervision at the program.

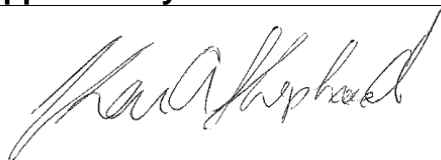
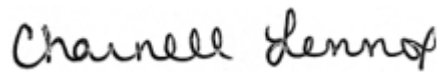
On 4/2/2024, I conducted an exit conference with PD. We discussed the findings of my investigation and that no violations are being cited.

**RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:**

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8182(7)	If there are children of mixed ages in the same room or well-defined space, then the ratio and group size is determined by the age of the youngest child, unless each group of children is clearly separated and the appropriate child care staff member-to-child ratios and group sizes, if applicable, for each age group are maintained.
ANALYSIS:	The facility was not found to be out of compliance with ratio or group size requirements.
CONCLUSION:	<b>Violation Not Established</b>

**BUREAU RECOMMENDATION**

Bureau Recommendation
I recommend no change in the status of the license.

Approved By:	
 Kari Shepherd      04/02/2024 <b>Consultant</b> <b>Date</b>	 Charnell Lennox      04/03/2024 <b>Area Manager</b> <b>Date</b>