



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MICHELLE RICHARD
ACTING DIRECTOR

02/08/2024

Montessori Children's House of Lenawee, Inc.
1008 W. Maple,
Adrian, MI, 49221

License Number: DC460405764
Special Investigation Number: SI-00077522

Dear Montessori Children's House of Lenawee, Inc.,

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 400.8125(1)	All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.

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

- I interviewed: Licensee designee, program director, child care staff members and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 9/25/2023

As a result of this investigation, I found the following violation(s):

R 400.8125(1) Staff; volunteer; requirements.

I recommend issuance of a first provisional license. If you accept the provisional license, you must sign and return the enclosed waiver form. If you do not accept the provisional license, you must notify this office in writing and an administrative hearing will be scheduled. Even if you don't accept the provisional license, you must still send us an acceptable corrective action plan.

Due to the violations, you must send us a corrective action plan by 2/26/2024. You can use our [corrective action plan](#) form or create your own.

If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact me. If you do not send a corrective action plan, you may face disciplinary action. The corrective action plan must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
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, Timothy Swope at (517) 262-9838 or swopet@michigan.gov. In the event that Timothy Swope is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,



Timothy Swope, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CHILD CARE LICENSING BUREAU**

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 02/08/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00077522	09/22/2023
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
9/26/2023	11/26/2023
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC460405764	Montessori Children's House of Lenawee, Inc.
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
Montessori Children's House of Lenawee	Karah Nickole Roesler
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	N/A
Capacity	Program Director(s) Name
73	Michelle Stone Rion Qualifications: 400.8113(7)(a) & (12) Date PD Approved: 09/15/2022
Facility Address	Mailing Address
1099 US-223, Adrian, MI, 49221	1008 W. Maple, Adrian, MI, 49221
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
5174174624	klambka@mch-lenawee.org
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
12/1/2020	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
6/1/2023	5/31/2025

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
The center did not provide Child A (age 3 ½ years, male) and Child B (age 4 years, male) with appropriate care and supervision. On 9/20/23, at 11:40a.m. both children were left alone in the outdoor play area by themselves for approximately 7 -10 minutes timeframe. The children were returned back to the classroom unharmed.	YES	

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
9/26/2023	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00077522
9/21/2023	Contact – Document Received Incident report received via email from Ms. Karak Roesler, licensee designee from center.
9/21/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Telephone call with Ms. Karak Roesler, licensee designee to obtain additional information regarding the complaint.
9/25/2023	Special Investigation Initiated via On-site Unannounced onsite inspection to the center from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm. Interview with Ms. Roesler, licensee designee/acting program director, Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1), and child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2). Observation of the premises and outdoor play area.
12/1/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Attempted telephone interview with Child B's Father - no answer.
12/1/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Telephone interview with Child C & D's Mother.
12/1/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Telephone interview with Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3)
12/1/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Telephone interview with Child A's Mother.
12/1/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Telephone interview with Child Care Staff Member 4 (CCSM 4)
12/4/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Attempted telephone interview with Child B's Father - no answer
12/4/2023	Exit Conference Ms. Karak Roesler

ALLEGATION: The center did not provide Child A (age 3 ½ years, male) and Child B (age 4 years, male) with appropriate care and supervision. On 9/20/23, at 11:40 a.m. both children were left alone in the outdoor play area by themselves for approximately 7 -10 minutes timeframe. The children were returned back to the classroom unharmed.

INVESTIGATION: On 9/22/23, I reviewed an incident report sent to the department. According to the incident report on 9/20/23 around 11:40 Child A and Child B left the line and hid in a caterpillar tunnel when the children and child care staff members (CCSMs) went inside for lunch. A man picking up the port/potty/dumpster saw the children alone in the outdoor play area and came into the center to notify the CCSMs. A CCSM immediately went outside and brought the children back into the center.

On 9/25/23, I conducted an unannounced onsite inspection to the center and interviewed Ms. Karah Roesler, licensee designee and acting program director regarding the incident. I informed Ms. Roesler of the allegation. Ms. Roesler confirmed the allegation stating that on 9/20/23 around 11:40 a.m. while the children were coming in from outdoor play activities, Child A and Child B left the line while the child care staff members (CCSMs) were completing a name to face head count on the children. Both Child A and Child B went and hid the caterpillar tunnel when the children and CCSMs went inside for lunch. During the name to face head count, there was another child toward the front of the line having behavior issues and had scratched another child in the face while standing in line causing a short bit of chaos with the children lined up. The CCSMs were focused on this incident when Child A and Child B had left the line to hide in the caterpillar tunnel. Ms. Koelser said the CCSMs dealt with the child having behavior issues and brought the children back inside the center without completing another name to face head count. The CCSMs took the children to use the bathroom, wash their hands and prepare for lunch. Within approximately 10 minutes timeframe, a man picking up the port/potty/dumpster saw the children alone in the outdoor play area and came into the center to notify the CCSMs. Child Care Staff Member 5 (CCSM 5) immediately went outside and brought the children back into the center. Both Child A and Child B had a worried look on their face as they knew they did wrong by hiding and not coming back into the classroom with the other children. They were in good spirits and finished the remainder of their day with no other issues taking place. Ms. Roesler denied either Child A or Child B having any prior behavior issues from hiding from the CCSM's.

On 9/20/23, the preschool classroom had three CCSMs, Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2), Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3), and Child Care Staff Member 4 (CCSM 4) working with 15 child care children present that included Child A and Child B. Ms. Roesler said she completed an incident report, notified the department, and informed Both Child A's Parents and Child B's Parents of the incident. Child A's Parents were understanding of the incident and said that Child A had been doing the same type of behaviors with them at home. Child B's Father was concerned of the incident and wanted to know what the center's standard operating procedures were

when an incident like this happens. Ms. Roesler provided Child B's Father with an explanation to how the center completes name to face head counts during transition times that include outdoor play. Child A remains in care at the center. Ms. Roesler is unsure if Child B will be returning to care at the center. Since the incident occurred, Ms. Roesler has spoken with all of the CCSMs during meeting to remind them of the importance to assure all the children are being provided with appropriate care and supervision at all times to include completing the head counts during busy transition times. Since the incident occurred, Ms. Roesler has adapted several new safety procedures to assist in preventing another incident from occurring. She has added additional head count times when children are engaged in outdoor play and during busy transition times. When children are coming in from outdoor play, the center added an additional head count to be completed after the children exit the gated area and enter the center to assure all of the children are accounted for. They also have the CCSMs position themselves in the front, rear, and middle of the walking line of child care children and assure all of the CCSMs complete a head count with the same amount of children being accounted for before they transition to another area. Ms. Roesler has also adjusted how the children line up when leaving the outdoor play area to include now having the children line up adjacent to the fence in lieu of a straight line in front of the gate. In addition, Ms. Roesler has also relocated the caterpillar play structure closer to the front of the play area where it can be monitored more closely by the CCSMs while the children are engaged in outdoor play area.

On 9/25/23, I interviewed Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1) at the center. I informed CCSM 1 of the allegation. CCSM 1 confirmed the allegation stating that on 9/20/23 while working in the infant room around 11:40 a.m., a gentleman came to her door and informed her that he had observed two children, Child A and Child B alone on their playground. CCSM 1 immediately went outside and brought Child A and Child B into the center. When she arrived at the play area, both Child A and Child B were standing by the gated area of the playground. When CCSM 1 asked them what happened, Child A said they were hiding from the CCSM's in the caterpillar. Child A said he saw the CCSMs, and children go inside and got scared. CCSM 1 said she walked with Child A and Child B back to the center and to their preschool classroom. Child A and Child B were reunited with their CCSMs and children in the classroom. Regarding head counts, CCSM 1 confirmed Ms. Roesler's statement regarding head counts during transition times. Ms. Swander said during transition times, they have the children line up, complete a head count, and then proceed to walk to the outdoor play area with a CCSM located at the front and rear of the walking line of children. Once they arrive in the gated outdoor play area, they conducted another head count and allowed the children to play. Approximately one hour later when it was time to come in, the CCSMs have the children line back up at the gate area to conduct another head count. Once the name to face head count is complete, the CCSMs will walk with the children back to the center and complete an additional name to face head count when arriving at the center to assure all of the children are accounted for.

On 9/25/23, I interviewed CCSM 2 at the center. I informed CCSM 2 of the allegation. CCSM 2 confirmed the allegation stating that on 9/20/23 while working in the preschool

room with CCSM 3 and CCSM 4, Child A and Child B left the line and hid in a caterpillar tunnel when the children and CCSMs went inside for lunch. CCSM 2 said around 11:30 a.m., she momentarily went back into the center to get the room ready for lunch, CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 were still outdoor with the 15 children. CCSM 2 went back outside and saw the CCSMs lined up with the children getting ready to transition back into the center. CCSM 2 said that both CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 were talking with a child in line who was having some behavior issues and scratched another child standing in line. CCSM 4 said she had already completed a name to face head count not realizing Child A and Child B had walked away from the line and hid in the caterpillar play structure. CCSM 2 said she was in the middle of the line when they walked the children back to the center. CCSM 4 was in the front of the line while CCSM 3 walked in the rear of the line behind the children. When they arrived at the center, CCSM 2 said they did not complete another name to face count as they were focused on getting everyone back into the classroom due to the one child still having some behavior issues. When they arrived in the center, they immediately stopped at the bathroom area to allow the children to use the bathroom and wash their hands. Afterwards they walked with the children to the preschool classroom for lunch. CCSM 2 said while they were sitting down for lunch, CCSM 2 noticed there were two spots missing for lunch. At that time, Ms. Roesler brought Child A and Child B into the classroom and informed the CCSM's that they were left alone outside on the playground. CCSM 2 estimated the children being alone outside for approximately five to eight minutes timeframe. CCSM 2 said looking back on the situation, they should have completed a second name to face before leaving the playground and returning to the center. Since the incident occurred, CCSM 2 said they have added an additional name to face head count to be completed when they arrive back at the center. In addition, they are now having all the CCSMs complete a name to face head count to assure all of the children are accounted for. CCSM 2 said they have had staff meeting to discuss the importance of assuring all the CCSMs always provide the children with appropriate care and supervision at all times to include positioning themselves globally to know what activities the children are engaged in at all times.

On 9/25/23, during my unannounced onsite inspection, I observed the centers premises and outdoor play area. Montessori Children's House of Lenawee is located inside a one-story free-standing building in the city of Adrian, MI. The center utilizes five rooms as approved child use space: toddler room, transition room, preschool room 1, preschool room 2, and the school-age room. The outdoor play area is fenced and is located on the east side of the building. The outdoor play area exceeds the minimum square footage requirements for outdoor play space. The outdoor play area contains both a cement surfaced area and a grassy for children to play. There is a large climber and portable play equipment available for children's use. The playground had a playground safety inspection completed by Ms. Angela Houston, certified playground inspector verifying the play equipment to assure the playground equipment meets the requirements for the 2010 Edition of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety. I observed the play area where Child A and Child B was found hiding in the caterpillar play structure. The caterpillar play structure was moved to another location of the play area closer to the entrance area of the play area to assist in assuring no children are

hiding in the play structure. Ms. Roesler gave me permission to take photographs of the outdoor play area and caterpillar play structure where Child A and Child B were hiding when the CCSMs and other child care children left the play area to transition back into the center.

On 12/1/23, I separately interviewed CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 via telephone. I informed them of the allegations. Both CCSMs confirmed the allegation and acknowledged working in the preschool classroom with Child A and Child B when the incident occurred. Around 11:40 a.m. while the children were engaged in outdoor play, the CCSMs had the children line up to get ready for transition time back into center to prepare for lunch. The CCSMs completed a head count. While the children were lined up, another child began to get upset and scratched the child in the face standing behind them. The CCSMs addressed the issue with this child while all the children were in line. Both CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 said during this chaotic time, Child A and Child B left the line and went and hid in the caterpillar play structure without any CCSM's knowledge of them leaving the line. CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 said all the CCSMs walked with the children back into the center as they wanted to get the children back inside. While walking with the children, CCSM3 and CCSM 4 both acknowledged a CCSM walking in the rear of the line, front of the line and another positioned in the middle of the line. When they arrived back at the center, they had the children use the bathroom, wash their hands, put away their coats in their cubby, and prepare for lunch in the classroom. When they arrived in the classroom and began to sit down, Ms. Roesler walked into the classroom with Child A and Child B informing them of both children being left alone outside in the play area. CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 estimate the children being alone outside for approximately 7-10 minutes. Both CCSMs said it was an unfortunate accident on their parts as they should have completed an additional name to face head count before leaving the play area and entering back into the center. None of the CCSMs were aware of either child walking away from the line after they completed their initial head count. CCSM 3 said that she completed a walkthrough of the play area before they left and did not see Child A and Child B hiding in the caterpillar play structure. Since the incident occurred, both CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 acknowledged the center placing additional safety measures in place to assure another incident occurs that includes completing additional name to face head counts before leaving the play area and entering the center. They are now also having all of the CCSMs complete name to face head counts to assure all children are accounted for during transition times. In addition, they have also moved the caterpillar play structure closer to the entrance area of the play area so it can be monitored closely by the CCSMs. CCSM 3 and CCSM 4 said they are also having the children line up adjacent to the fence in the play area to have better global view of the children when completing name to face head counts. Both CCSMs deny either Child A or Child B have any prior behavior issues with hiding from the CCSMs. Since being made aware of this behavior, the CCSMs will assure to keep the children closer to them during transition times to prevent another incident from occurring.

On 12/1/23, I separately interviewed Child A's Mother and Child C & D's Mother via telephone. Child A's Mother said the department made her aware of the incident when

it occurred on 9/20/23. Child A's Mother felt the incident was accidental and stated that Child A does this with his parents at home as he likes to hide and wants you to find him. Child A's Mother said since the incident, the center has put a lot of additional safety measures in place to avoid another incident from taking place that included more head counts, moving the caterpillar play structure closer to the entrance so it could be monitored more closely, keeping Child A closer to the CCSMs during transitional periods, and providing additional training for the CCSMs. Both Child A's Mother and Child C & D's Mother expressed no concerns regarding the care and supervision the center provides for their children. They said the center communicates with them daily regarding their children's experiences while in care either through the automated application system, telephone, or in person depending on the circumstance. Both parents said their children look forward to attending care at the center each day.



On 12/1/23 and 12/4/23, I made two separate attempts to interview Child B's Father without success.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8125(1)	All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
ANALYSIS:	On 9/20/23 at approximately 11:40 am, the CCSM's did not provide Child A and Child B with appropriate care and supervision when they were left alone on the fenced outdoor play area for approximately 7-10 minutes timeframe.
CONCLUSION:	REPEAT VIOLATION ESTABLISHED Special Investigative Report (SIR#2022D0104023 dated 11/27//2022 Corrective Action Plan dated 12/6/2022

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

Bureau Recommendation
Upon the receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend an issuance of a first provisional license.

Approved By:	
 Timothy Swope Consultant	 Darlese McConnell Consultant
2/08/2023 Date	02/08/2024 Date