FACILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION
OFFICE OF LICENSING & ACCREDITATION

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Provider's Name	**Montessori School of Aberdeen**	Provider Number	**011102504**
City	**Aberdeen**		
Inspection Type	**Annual**	Date of Inspection	**September 21, 2026**
Inspector	**Clint Rux**		

A. Fire and Life Safety

		Requirement Met
1.	Does each level have at least two remote exits that discharge directly to the outside? 61:15:05:05; 61:15:06:05 NOTE: If only two remote exits are available, the exits cannot pass through a kitchen.	**Yes**
2.	If children are cared for in a story above the main level, does the building provide two separate exits that discharge to the outside of the building? 61:15:05:05; 61:15:06:05	**Yes**
3.	If children are cared for in a story below the main level, are there two exits out from the basement? 61:15:05:05; 61:15:06:05 NOTE: One can be an interior stairway leading up to the main level of the building. The other must discharge directly to the outside. That outside exit can be an exterior stairway up to ground level if vertical travel is less than 8 feet.	**Yes**
4.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - Is a fire alarm system installed in the building hard wired and operable? 61:15:05:08 NOTE: Manual pull stations, audible alarms inside and out. Smoke detectors are in stairwells, corridors, lounges, recreation and sleeping areas.	**Yes**
5.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - Is a fire alarm system inspected and serviced annually by a qualified service technician? 61:15:01:01	**No**
6.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - If a fire sprinkler system is present in the building, is it operational? 61:15:05:09 NOTE: Valves are open, observe pressure gauge reading and sprinkler head condition.	**Yes**
7.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - If a fire sprinkler system is present, is it inspected and serviced annually by a qualified service technician? 61:15:01:01	**Yes**
8.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - If children are cared for on a floor above the main level of the center, is a sprinkler system provided throughout the building? 61:15:05:09	**Yes**
9.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - If a basement is utilized for child care and the space exceeds 1500 square feet, is an automatic sprinkler system present? 61:15:05:09	**Yes**
10.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - Is the usable space under the first story enclosed (even if care is not provided in lower level)? 61:15:05:15 NOTE: Wood framing on the basement side must be protected by 5/8 inch Type X gypsum board or other gypsum board suitable for use in fire-rated assemblies.	**Yes**
11.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - When occupant load is 50 or more, do exit doors swing in the direction of egress flow? 61:15:05:05	**Yes**
12.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - In corridors providing access to exits, do combustible decorations cover less than 10% of the wall area? 61:15:05:05	**Yes**

13.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - If domestic cooking equipment is installed, is a ventilating hood and duct provided and vented to the outside of the building to handle grease-laden vapors? 67:42:17:32	**Yes**
14.	In Licensed Programs caring for 21 or More Children - If commercial cooking equipment is installed, is an automatic hood suppression system installed for the protection of deep fat fryers, griddles, upright broilers, char-broilers, range tops, and grills with setup? Has the system been inspected every 6 months? 61:15:01:01	**N/A**
15.	In Licensed Programs caring for 20 or Less Children - Is an interconnected smoke detection system operational and installed to meet coverage requirements? 61:15:06:08 NOTE: Detectors are to be located in all stairwells, corridors, sleeping rooms, and activity rooms.	**N/A**
16.	Do all unused electrical outlets have self-closing or tamper resistant childproof electrical covers? 67:42:17:39 NOTE: Outlet plug covers are not permitted.	**Yes**
17.	Are exit signs provided over each exit, and where necessary to identify a change in the direction of egress travel? 61:15:05:05; 61:15:06:05 NOTE: Exit signs must be interior or exterior illuminated or self-luminous.	**Yes**
18.	Are exits and exit corridors maintained in a safe manner? 61:15:05:05; 61:15:06:05 NOTE: Exits can't pass through storeroom, bathroom, kitchen; corridor & aisle widths maintained at 36 inches or more; exits cannot be obstructed.	**Yes**
19.	In storage rooms, are combustible materials maintained at least 2 feet below the ceiling or 18 Inches below sprinkler head deflectors? 61:15:01:01	**Yes**
20.	Is electrical system being used properly? 61:15:01:01 NOTE: Check for overloads or frayed extension cords.	**Yes**
21.	Are portable fire extinguishers charged, operable, and inspected annually by a qualified service technician? 61:15:05:10 NOTE: Minimum 2A rated on each level. No more than 75 feet travel distance to an extinguisher. One near food preparation.	**Yes**
22.	If portable heaters are used, are they provided with noncombustible partitions, screens, or other means to protect children from hot surfaces and open flames? If solid partitions are used, do they allow for adequate airflow & ventilation? 61:15:05:14; 61:15:06:12 NOTE: Unvented fuel-fired room heaters are not permitted.	**N/A**
23.	Is there a carbon monoxide detector installed according to the manufacturer's directions if there is a furnace or appliances utilizing fossil fuels such as propane, natural, gas, etc.? 61:15:01:01	**Yes**
24.	NEW PROGRAMS: Are all requirements identified in the floor plan review letters issued by the Fire Marshall's Office and the Dept. of Health completed? Does facility layout match the approved floor plan? 67:42:17:02	**N/A**

Comments

5: The fire alarm system was last inspected on 3/17/25. This system needs to be inspected annually.

B. Environmental Health	**Requirement Met**
25. For center programs, does the inside play area appear to allow for 35 square feet per child? 67:42:17:34	**Yes**
26. For school age programs, does the inside play area appear to allow for 25 square feet per child? 67:42:17:34	**N/A**
27. Does each child over one year of age have a nap mat, blanket, or other sleep surface other than the floor to lie on during nap or rest periods? 67:42:17:26	**Yes**

28.	Is bedding changed between use if the sleep environment is used by more than one child? (i.e., crib, pack-and-play, bed)? 67:42:17:26	**Yes**
29.	Are all sleep surfaces maintained in good condition? 67:42:17:26	**Yes**
30.	If night-time care is offered, do children have a cot or bed for sleeping? 67:42:17:48	**N/A**
31.	Are toys which have been placed in a child's mouth or have contact with other bodily fluids cleaned and sanitized daily in a dishwasher or by using a product approved by the department? 67:42:17:25	**Yes**
32.	Are bathroom facilities easily accessible? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
33.	Are toilets and hand sinks kept clean and in good repair? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
34.	Is the hot water temperature at hand washing sinks used by children maintained at 120 degrees F or lower? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
35.	Is each bathroom provided with natural or mechanical ventilation? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
36.	Are there separate bathrooms for males and females? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
37.	Are there at least 1 toilet and 1 hand sink in the restrooms for every 15 children? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
38.	Do providers and children wash their hands with soap, before preparing food or beverages, eating, handling food, or feeding a child, and after changing a diaper, using the toilet, helping a child use a toilet, or coming into contact with bodily fluid? 67:42:17:25	**Yes**
39.	Is there a hand sink in the same room, or in an unobstructed adjacent room, to wash hands after each diaper change? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
40.	Are handwashing sinks used for diaper changing different than the sinks used for food or bottle prep? 67:42:17:33	**Yes**
41.	Is there a designated area for diaper changing that is easily cleanable and non-absorbent? 67:42:17:44	**Yes**
42.	Is the diaper changing area cleaned and sanitized after each diaper change with a sanitizing solution approved by the department? 67:42:17:44	**Yes**
43.	Are soiled diapers promptly disposed of in a leakproof, non-absorbent container with a tight-fitting lid? 67:42:17:44	**Yes**
44.	Are all bio-contaminants properly disposed? 67:42:17:44	**Yes**
45.	Are hazardous cleaning supplies inaccessible to children and stored in their original container, used, and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's instructions? 67:42:17:44	**Yes**
46.	Is each child provided individual space for personal items to prevent the spread of an infestation or infectious disease? 67:42:17:24	**Yes**
47.	When children are in care, is the temperature maintained between 65 - 75 degrees F? 67:42:17:32	**Yes**
48.	Is the heating and cooling system maintained and inspected annually by a certified technician? 67:42:17:32	**Yes**
49.	Are all walls, ceilings, floors, and equipment easily cleanable, kept clean and in good repair? 67:42:17:32	**Yes**

50.	Are the following hazards inaccessible to children: fire arms; pellet guns; BB guns; cap guns; ammunition; matches; lighters; tobacco products; items capable of being pulled or tipped onto a child such as a TV, shelf, dresser; sharp objects such as knives and scissors; small objects the size of a half-dollar or smaller that could present a choking hazard; or strangulation hazards such as dangling cords? 67:42:17:38	**Yes**
51.	Are all open-sided floor and wall openings, and platforms inside & outside the facility, which are more than 30 inches above ground level, guarded by a barrier that is at least 36" tall and no more than 5" between openings? 67:42:17:38	**Yes**
52.	Is smoking prohibited in the facility? SDCL 34-46-14	**Yes**
53.	Are all pets confined and kept away from children if there is a history of aggression? 67:42:17:40	**N/A**
54.	Is there documentation showing pets have current vaccination records? 67:42:17:40	**N/A**
55.	Are pet living quarters clean and sanitary? 67:42:17:40	**N/A**
56.	Does the outside play area appear to allow for 50 square feet of play space for each child? 67:42:17:34	**Yes**
57.	Is the outside play area safe, in good repair, and free of debris, trash, weeds and hazardous material? 67:42:17:35	**Yes**
58.	Is the playground equipment installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and in good repair? 67:42:17:35	**Yes**
59.	For a center program, is the outdoor play area enclosed with a fence that is at least 48" high? 67:42:17:35	**No**
60.	For a school age program, are all play areas which are near an area that is dangerous or life-threatening that could pose a risk of a serious injury to children enclosed with a fence that is at least 42" high? 67:42:17:35 NOTE: This includes but is not limited to pools, water filled ditches, high traffic areas, etc.	**N/A**
61.	In areas where any bodies of water are present, are providers able to see and hear the children, and close enough to intervene at all times? 67:42:17:36 NOTE: This includes but is not limited to pools, wading pools, and water filled ditches.	**Yes**
62.	If a wading pool is used, is it drained after each use? 67:42:17:36	**N/A**
63.	If a pool is used, but not drained after each use, is there a five foot fence or barrier surrounding all sides of the pool and a latched gate restricting access into the pool area? 67:42:17:36	**N/A**
64.	If an indoor pool is on premise, is there an access door that restricts entry? 67:42:17:36	**N/A**
65.	If a hot tub is present, does it have a secure cover? 67:42:17:36	**N/A**

Comments

59. The new fenced area has missing fencing and a missing gate. This area has toys placed in the area. This fence and gate needs to be finished.

C. Food Service	**Requirement Met**
66. Is all equipment, utensils, kitchenware, dining tables and food contact surfaces used for the care of children, washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each meal? 67:42:17:25	**Yes**

67.	Is there a dishwasher or a 3-compartment sink available for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing? 67:42:17:25 NOTE: Centers serving 20 or less children, may use a 2-compartment sink and a tub for sanitizing.	**Yes**
68.	If a 3-compartment sink is used for manual cleaning, are the compartments used for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing? 67:42:17:25 NOTE: Sanitize by immersing for 30 seconds in 170 degree F water or immerse for 60 seconds in 75 degree F water containing 1 ounce household bleach per 4 gallons of water.	**Yes**
69.	In food preparation areas, including tables and countertops, are surfaces smooth, non-porous, kept clean and sanitized, free of cracks and in good repair? 67:42:17:32	**Yes**
70.	Are food containers properly stored in a manner that protects from contamination? 67:42:17:31	**Yes**
71.	Is food, including breastmilk and formula, properly stored, kept at the proper temperature, and protected from potential contamination? 67:42:17:31 NOTE: Refrigerator temperature should be maintained at 41 degrees F or below, and the freezer temperature maintained at 0 degrees F or below to ensure proper storage of food, breastmilk, and formula.	**Yes**

Comments

No issues this section.

Additional Comments

All applicable requirements of this inspection have been met	**No**