



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Community Development Division

30 W. Mifflin Street, 8th Floor
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2627
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2627
Phone: (608) 266-6520
Fax: (608) 261-9626
www.cityofmadison.com

Child Care
Community Resources
Community Development Block Grant
Madison Senior Center

To: Early Childhood Care and Education Committee

From: Coral Manning, Early Care and Education Manager

Re: Application for Accreditation from La Petite Academy, 6500 Bridge Road, Monona

In December, Jenny Rowe, the new director at La Petite Academy (LPA) Monona, was in communication with Child Care Specialist Terri Strong in regard to beginning the process of accreditation anew.

The current program has 74 children enrolled. Of those children, 51 live in Madison (69%) and 23 are utilizing Wisconsin Shares subsidy (31%). The center is currently rated 3 Stars in YoungStar and has a capacity of 129 children. There have been no serious licensing violations in the last year. The area that is served by LPA Monona is significantly devoid of City Accredited facilities. The next closest City Accredited center is Woodland Montessori School, which is nearly two miles away on Colby Street.

LPA Monona first applied to become accredited in October 2002. The program worked with child care staff for two years through a series of director changes and ultimately was not accredited due to the continual change in leadership in September 2004.

In September 2009, LPA Monona applied for accreditation and their application was denied by the Early Childhood Care and Education Committee (ECCEC) because the program is located in the City of Monona.

In September 2013, LPA Monona applied once again for accreditation and their application was once again denied due to their location. They appealed the decision and began accreditation anew in 2014. In June 2015, their eligibility to continue with the accreditation process was revoked by Monica Host due to a number of serious licensing violations (see attached letter). In the letter, Monica told the program that they were welcome to reapply for accreditation after 6 months.

Since that time, there has been significant staff and administrative changes in the LPA Monona program. With the promotion of Jenny Rowe to lead the program, the Child Care Unit staff believe a new attempt at accreditation is warranted. Jenny most recently was the assistant director at the La Petite Academy on North Gammon Road, which is accredited by the City. Jenny was with the North Gammon site for several years as a teacher prior to being promoted to the administrative team there. Terri has worked with Jenny throughout those years and believes Jenny fully understands the accreditation process and its importance to offering high quality programming.

For these reasons, I am requesting approval from the ECCEC to accept the application of LPA Monona to begin accreditation.