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

Name of Center: Dubuque Montessori School **Enrollment:** 69 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19251

Street: 2605 Pennsylvania Ave **City:** Dubuque Iowa **Zip** 52001 **County:** Dubuque

Mailing Address: 2605 Pennsylvania Ave, Dubuque, IA, 52001

Director's Name: Elizabeth Duccini **Phone Number:** 563-500-6254

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** office@dubuquemontessori.org
bethduccini@dubuquemontessori.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 08-30-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			90		90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 10-04-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 9/25/23. The center director, Elizabeth Duccini, was present along with other staff. The Montessori school is located in a large two story re-modeled barn which the center leases from the City of Dubuque during the school year. There is a main level, upper level, lower level, and a "stage" (mid) level of the building. The program is open to children age two through six and provides Kindergarten. The program offers a preschool program and extended day services for families that need or want the service to include the hours of the center's operation. The program operates on school days only during the school year only and has to move entirely out of the building at the end of each school year. The program is non-profit and is governed by a voluntary board of directors that meets monthly. This program does not participate in the Voluntary Preschool Grant program.

The four program rooms are large and provide plenty of space for the children to move about and to access the many activity centers and materials available. The opportunities for learning are presented using traditional Montessori methods, materials, and philosophy. The center is very well stocked with items that support the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. There are plenty of arts/crafts materials as well. Materials appeared to be highly organized and are well maintained. Restroom areas are now adjacent to all program rooms. Hand washing sinks are located within all program rooms. A diapering station is located near the restroom area on the lower level. All program space was observed.

The center serves morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack all prepared on site in the center's kitchen area which is also highly organized. The center does participate in the CACFP.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center director is qualified with experience, education, and training. The center director continues with a NAC credential through 7/5/25. The center continues to be very organized and is well managed. The staff work well together and were again observed to be highly engaged with the children in activities and provided careful supervision. The children appeared to be having a good experience at the center. Program rooms continue to offer an abundance of materials to support program needs. The teachers in each program area complete detailed weekly lesson plans which go out to each parent the week before, and teachers also keep track, daily, of what each child has worked on individually. The center participates in the local AEA program where materials are borrowed to supplement program activities and lesson planning. The center's licensing documentation and staff and child files continue to be highly organized. The center has added a restroom area adjacent to the upstairs level room since the last licensing visit. The center has also added shade to the outdoor play area since the last licensing visit.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure kitchen door remains closed at ALL times.

This center will continue with a full license. The center is directed to tend to the item noted above in this section of the report so that corrections are obvious. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

*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.