Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sonnet Montessori and Child Care

Provider No.: 52782

Address: 605 E Hickman Rd, Waukee, IA, 50263

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Christine Haas

On-Site Supervisor: Brittany Lynch

Phone Number: 5153043929

E-Mail: christine@sonnetschool.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/19/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/10/2025

Comments: Waukee Fire Marshal. For licensing, these inspections are due at least every three years. The City of Waukee Fire Marshal typically do these inspections more frequently.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	47	17	104	0	168
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 5/19/26. The director was present throughout the inspection and director's supervisor, Managing Director, was present throughout portions of this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Sonnet Montessori and Child Care is a newer center located in Waukee, IA that was given permission to open on 4/1/25. Sonnet took over ownership of this location from the former center, Guidepost Montessori. Sonnet Montessori Corporation is the owner of the center (Kylie Schrader). The director of this program as of 10/2025 is Christine Haas. Christine has a BA degree and has past experience working in child care which includes experience as a director. The on-site supervisor of this program is Brittany Lynch. Brittany has past experience working in child care.

The center serves children six weeks in age through six years of age using a Sonnet Montessori Learning Curriculum. There are a total of eight classrooms. There are three infant classrooms with capacities of 17, 16, and 14. There is one two-year old classroom that has a capacity of 17. There are four preschool classrooms that each have a capacity of 26 children. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 33 children.

During the inspection were observed in a variety of activities. One child was napping in a crib. Safe sleep practices were reviewed. Some children were observed washing their hands before sitting down for lunch. Other children were observed eating lunch at the child-size tables and chairs. Children gave specific answers as to the frequency and times they wash

their hands while at the center and where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills. Toys and other classroom equipment is being cleaned and sanitized (diapering tables disinfected after each use) daily.

NUTRITION: The center provides an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack to children. Lunch is catered in by a local company. All food items on the menus met CACFP requirements. Children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs. The center does have a kitchen area where snacks are prepared. All food storage observed was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not go on field trips. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playground areas that are fenced in. Mulch/wood chips are used for surfacing around the fall zones of climbing structures. The center will need to pay attention to the longer mulch pieces. Outdoor equipment appeared to be in good working order. Several monthly playground checks were not documented, but it was noted these were prior to the new director taking over in 10/2025. There is also an indoor gym when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

For more challenging child behaviors, management stresses working together as a team and being available to staff in classrooms for additional support whenever needed. Montessori teaches grace and patience and this goes for both children and staff. Older children model good behaviors for younger children. There are calm down areas for children if needed and also visual cues that are utilized as needed for children to use. Documentation and communication with all parties involved are also stressed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center that meets a need in the community. Enrollment is growing.

The director is organized and has past director experience.

The center was very clean with a lot of natural lighting.

The center has an electric app that they use for increased communication with parents, daily sheets, etc.

The center has an outdoor garden.

There is an indoor gym when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

The director believes she has a good staff who work well together.

There is a nice breakroom for staff to use.

There is a nice and inviting lobby at the main entrance. Management are visible to guests.

Monthly staff meetings are held to review daily activities, licensing, etc.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(1): Written policies on:

Enrollment and discharge.
Field trips and non-center activities.
Discipline/Behavior/Biting.
Nutrition.
Health and safety policies.
Transportation if applicable.
Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center.

Protecting children's confidentiality.
An Access Policy was still missing in the staff handbook.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
Several monthly inspections were not documented. It was noted that the time frames were under a previous director. Since the new director took over in October 2025, these inspections haven't been missed.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed 5/23/25 - 5/26/25. Going forward, all classrooms will need to be tested. Radon levels at each end of the long hallway each came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual HVAC inspection was last inspected on 7/7/25 so it will be again coming due in the near future.

IQ4K was discussed. The center has a meeting scheduled in the near future with CCR&R to explore/begin this process.

It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and are uploading training certificates/hours. Mandatory Reporter and First-Aid/CPR will need to be manually uploaded by staff.

It is again recommended outdoor mats be purchased and placed at the bottom of slides to help preserve the wood chips in those areas.

It is again recommended divider walls be installed between toilets.

An Access Policy was emailed to the center after the inspection concluded. This should be added to the staff handbook.

Staff are again due for annual review of the center handbooks which include all emergency procedures.

It is recommended that the center's Emergency Preparedness kit be stored in a suitcase on wheels for easier transport if ever needed.

Date: 05/20/2026

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.