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.: 52791

Address: 1100 35th St, Marion, IA, 52302

County: Linn

Director's Name: Colette Nakielski

On-Site Supervisor: Julie Taylor

Phone Number: 5153043929

E-Mail: Colette@sonnetschool.com
kylie@sonnetschool.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/02/2026

Licensing Period: 03/31/2025 to 03/31/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/21/2025

Comments:

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
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	60	34	55	7	156
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Sonnet Montessori and Child Care (SMCC) is owned and operated by Jessican Johnsen and Kylie Schrader. Ms. Johnsen and Ms. Schrader operate several SMCC locations in Iowa and Minnesota. Specifically, this annual visit and inspection report pertains to SMCC - 52791. SMCC is located inside a property that was renovated in 2023. SMCC - 52791 commenced operations on 3/31/2025 after an ownership change (formerly Guidepost Montessori at Marion - 52354; operating since 12/11/2023). SMCC is a profit program offering licensed programming M-F 7:00am-6:00pm to children age infant through school-age. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 70 on 3/2/2026.

Director (Head of School) is Colette Nakielski. Ms. Nakielski has a BA degree in theatre and music, has experience working with children, and participates in professional development. On-site supervisor (Assistant Head of School) is Julie Taylor. Ms. Taylor has a BA degree in early childhood education, has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 3/2/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in age grouping defined classrooms. There are sufficient restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. The center has an on-site kitchenette as well as an outdoor play area. Since the last review, an outdoor butterfly garden was established. On 3/2/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included infant cares, work cycles, classroom events and routine transitions. On the day of this monitoring visit, children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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SMCC's mission "...is to put good humans into the world and leave the world better than we found it..."

SMCC has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their programs: https://sonnetschool.com/

Multi-site owners Ms. Johnsen and Ms. Schrader are seasoned entrepreneurs. As of 3/2/2026, the management team of SMCC (e.g. Ms. Nakielski, Ms. Taylor) continues efforts to create and maintain systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and secured in a confidential manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. SMCC locations have the ability to collaborate with one another on the sharing of materials, resources, curriculum, ideas/planning, and professional growth training. Ms. Nakielski discussed having a reliable, great team of staff.

As of 3/2/2026, SMCC was found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. The vestibule area was found to have updated communications for families and visitors. Curriculum supports a carefully prepared environment, includes intentionally designed learning materials, supports one-on-one guidance, and allows each child the freedom to follow their own path. Curriculum also includes on-site guest speakers and seasonal celebrations. Ms. Nakielski discussed having updated the parent common space in celebration of the program's 1-year anniversary. Ms. Nakielski and Ms. Taylor also talked about having a celebration with a visit from Maria Montessori (e.g. Clever Ms. Taylor!) who read books to the children and talked about the history of Montessori. Ms. Nakielski reported continuing to receive much positive family feedback at to the program's operations.

SMCC continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily child contact, hand washing, diaper changing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff and management were able to verbalize how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. On 3/2/2026, management also discussed support from the building owner and multi-site SMMC owners as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

SMCC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Since opening in March 2025, SMCC has successfully navigated through air quality alert (2025), and repeated technology outage (10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted.

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

There appears to be visible evidence of the building settling. When asked about this, Ms. Nakielski reported a geotechnical evaluation with a structural engineer has been scheduled. Within the next 90 days, please provide written documentation to licensing with the results of this evaluation.

Since the last review, the conditions on the outdoor play area have improved from tree overgrowth and poor drainage (e.g. mud, standing water). Please continue to remedy outdoor play area drainage to help fully resolve the issues.

The outdoor playground climbers are a bit rough to the touch and show possible crack propagation. Continue to ensure these do not pose splinter hazards, possible mold issues from moisture or water intrusion into the cracks, and that the integrity of the wood is not compromised.

Since the last review, children age birth to 18mo have been relocated into Room 3. This room is L-shaped with an infant play area in the front of the room and infant cribs in the back of the room. When the day's enrollment is 4 or less infants

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with only 1 staff, this is problematic to staff being able to provide careful supervision to both sleeping infants and infants who are playing. Remedy.

This report also notes an administrative change. Since the last review, some classrooms had been arranged to contain different age groupings including moving infants to different rooms. In order to do this, code requires an updated floor plan indicating new room descriptions with dimensions, including location of windows and doors. Licensing also requires written documentation from the fire marshal to ensure the program continues to be in compliance with all fire code. To date, licensing has received an updated floor plan. Total building capacity has changed to 156. Please also forward the necessary updated documentation from the fire marshal.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 03/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.