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

Name of Center: Sonnet Montessori and Child Care **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52782

Street: 605 E Hickman Rd **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 756 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Alexis Morlan **Phone Number:** 515-304-3929

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** kylie@sonnetschool.com
alexis.morlan@sonnetschool.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-18-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-11-2025

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 07-31-2023

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

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age
Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

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

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2025 to 07-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-24-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing inspection visit was conducted on 6/18/25. The director was present throughout the visit 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 new 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 and Jessica Johnsen). The director of this program is Alexis Morlan. Alexis has an BA degree, AA degree, and past experience working in child care which includes past experience as being a director at several programs.

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.

During the inspection, children were observed napping in cribs, being held while bottle fed, and napping on cots. Staff questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills as well as specific answers to questions about daily cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center that meets a need in the community.

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.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
1. The indoor slide should be removed from the indoor gym as the floor does not meet sufficient surfacing requirements.
2. More mulch is needed at the bottom of slides and along the sidewalk areas as the mulch has decreased along the sidewalk, creating tripping hazards.
3. A bottle of plant oil was initially being stored in an unlocked, lower cabinet. THIS BOTTLE WAS MOVED TO AN AREA INACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN DURING THE VISIT.

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
Some of the daily schedules need to be adjusted as explained during the visit.

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
All infant bottles should be labeled with children's names or initials.

V. 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 will be due no later than 4/1/26.

The center does not transport and they do not go on field trips. The center will bring in agencies for presentations to children from time to time.

Brightwheel and Playground were discussed at the visit. The center is using a different app currently.

All staff will need to have I - Power profiles and be connected to this center. Staff should be uploading their training hours into their profiles if it is not automatically uploaded.

It is recommended the child enrollment and update forms be condensed some as discussed at the visit.

More mulch is needed at the bottom of slides and along the sidewalk. It is recommended outdoor mats be purchased and placed at the bottom of slides to help preserve the wood chips in those areas.

IQ4K was discussed at the visit.

It is recommended divider walls be installed between toilets.

The Iowa diapering procedures were emailed to the center after the visit concluded. These should be used rather than what the center is currently using. Hand washing postings were also emailed.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

After the visit inspection concluded, this consultant reviewed the center parent and staff handbooks and sent the following email to the director on things that needed to be added or taken out:

Alexis,
I have had a chance to review your handbooks. You have a lot of good information in them, but several things are missing.

I'm including your peer and my peer for Marion Sonnet since you two collaborate often as do Amy and I.

First a few things I noticed that I would change/add/or take out altogether:
1. Take out that section in the staff handbook about licensing information and the 515-281 phone number.
2. In the staff handbook, add that 911 will also be called if necessary for serious injuries.
3. In the staff (and parent handbook) you talk about parent visiting, but you must add the language, "unless restricted by a court order".
4. You can have volunteers and parent volunteers as you state, but add that volunteers will need to have record checks completed if a) in ratio b) alone with any child other than their own c) direct responsibility for child care.
5. You have a very generic nutrition policy. I'm fine with this since you have multiple locations, but I want you to add that you follow CACFP guidelines. Amy may want it changed though and if Colette has to change hers, you should also change yours for consistency sake.

Now, things I did not see on my own and also after collaborating with Amy:
1. Access Policy for your staff handbook. (I've added it above for you to use).
2. Dental emergencies. You can add this information along with your medical emergencies. Often times, they are the same or at least similar.
3. I assume this is in your written Emergency Plan and in your Emergency Kit, but I did not see written policies for intruder in the center, intoxicate parent, lost/abducted child, power failure, bomb threat, chemical spill, and earthquake. The only things I saw were for fire, tornado, and blizzard.

Please take care of the above. I will be checking again next year at your inspection. If the above aren't added, I'll unfortunately have to make those below standards. If any questions, let me know.

*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.