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

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center III **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26375

Street: 3802 92nd Dr **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50322 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3802 92nd Dr, Urbandale, IA, 50322

Director's Name: Opheliah (Liah) Gimer **Phone Number:** 515-331-2121

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kirstin Oliver and Sarah Geiger **E-Mail:** director@traditions3.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-05-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-03-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-15-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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 X 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	20	12	61	15	108
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-05-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 7/5/23. The director was present throughout the visit.

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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Traditions Children's Center III is one of nine centers owned by Robert and Bonnie Netteland. Opheliah (Liah) Gimer is the director at this center as of 5/2022. Liah has her CDA and has past experience working in child care. Kirstin Oliver is one of the on-site supervisors at this location as of 10/2021. Kirstin has her CDA and also has past experience working in child care. Sarah Geiger is another on-site supervisor as of 6/2022. Sarah has a diploma in Early Childhood Education as well as past experience working in child care. This center serves children ages six weeks to 12 years in age utilizing a combination of different learning curriculums that have been developed over the years by lead teachers.

The infant and mobile infant classrooms are enclosed. The other classrooms are open, but divided into sections.

During the visit, children were engaged mostly in free-choice play in the classrooms as well as playing outside on the playground. Staff were supervising children and engaged in all child activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has monthly staff meetings to review all things licensing. Directors at the different Tradition Centers and Clive Children Centers also have monthly meetings with upper management.

Newsletters are sent to parents. The center is also using Pro-Care Parent Engagement to communicate with parents more frequently. Staff who work at this center also received monthly newsletters on all things happening at the center.

Parents and staff are provided a code to gain access into the secure entrance. All other visitors have to ring a doorbell and be let in by staff.

Carpets are shampooed/steam-cleaned more frequently than licensing requirements. The center overall appeared to be clean.

The annual child update forms the center utilizes are simple, complete, and user friendly. This form is often used by this consultant as an example for other centers.

The center participates in ITERS and ECERS and is currently involved in QRS (recently has changed to IQ4K) which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Classroom staff wear "Traditions" shirts or same type of shirts so they are easily recognizable. Children also wear "Traditions" shirts and all the same color when going on field trips off site.

All staff review the licensing checklist and procedures on a monthly basis.

The playground has had a drainage system that was installed a couple of years ago.

Several staff members have completed their CDA's and/or have degrees.

The director is organized.

The director and on-site supervisor felt staff work well together.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

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

237A.7: Information regarding a child in a child care center or their relative is confidential. If this information is released by visual, verbal or written means, written consent from the parent or guardian is in the file or a court order allowing the release of the information.
Medication forms should not be readily visible for public view when entering classrooms.

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1. All minor staff (ages 16 - 17) need to be fingerprinted to be able to work in child care.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1
Number invalid: 0

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
1. Outside on the playgrounds, there are several thistles that need to be removed so they are not a hazard to children.
2. One table in the three year old classroom needs to be repaired.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 1/6/23 - 1/9/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels 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 furnace inspection was completed on 9/7/22.

The center has two buses that they use for transportation to/from school and also for field trips. These vehicles also receive regular maintenance.

I - Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

As mentioned at last year's visit, the door buzzer currently doesn't work by the main entrance and should be repaired.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The director mailed in the application and payment on 7/3/23.

*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.