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

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center I **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16664

Street: 5783 Vista Dr **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5783 Vista Dr, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Maggie Lancaster **Phone Number:** 515-223-6161

On-Site Supervisor(s): Connie Depalma (pending paperwork review and I - Power) **E-Mail:** director@traditions1.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-23-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-07-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-21-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	24	12	48	66	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-24-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 4/23/25. The director was present throughout the visit and the director of Traditions 4 for part of 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.

Traditions Children's Center I is one of nine centers owned by Bonnie and Robert Netteland. The building is located on Vista Avenue within an apartment complex area. Maggie Lancaster is the director. Maggie was previously the director at Clive Children's Center two which is also owned by the company. Maggie has an AA degree and past experience working in child care. The center does not currently have an on-site supervisor, but the director is working on this and sending the paperwork.

This center serves children ages six weeks old to 12 years in age. There are five enclosed classrooms and then an open middle section that has a classroom, cafeteria and large motor skill area (which is used by school age children and five year old children). The center utilizes their own learning curriculum which is based off of several learning curriculums. Not all classrooms are being used at this time.

During the visit, children were observed having tummy time and also napping in cribs in the infant classroom. Other children were observed in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. In one classroom, children were singing and dancing to a book/song facilitated by staff. Good positive guidance was observed for one child having a little bit of a difficult time adjusting to the day.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is one of several centers owned by Bonnie and Robert Netteland. The same policies and procedures are used at all centers. All of the directors of these centers have monthly staff meetings.

Summer programming for school-age children is well-planned and given to parents in a monthly calendar format to keep parents informed of all summer activities.

The annual child update forms used by the centers are often times used by this consultant as an example for other centers.

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

The director is organized.

The center sets aside time on a monthly basis for specific, internal staff development.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff at this program and within the company as a whole.

The center transports school-age children to/from different schools.

The center looked clean and smelled clean on the day of the visit.

The center uses the electronic app, Pro-Care.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

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

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes. Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Nothing should be placed on diapering tables other than items needed for diapering. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE VISIT.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
Nothing should be attached to cribs (mirrors, sound devices, etc.). THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE VISIT.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

As previously mentioned in the past, some windows don't have screens on them. These windows cannot be opened when weather permits since they do not have screens.

For transportation/field trips, the center has one bus. This bus is also used to transport school-age children to/from school. Regular maintenance and service is performed.

Radon testing was last tested 4/29/22 - 5/2/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because radon levels in classrooms came back below 4.0, radon testing can move to every five years. Radon testing can stay at every five years so long as radon levels remain below 4.0. If 40. or higher, retesting would be needed, a mitigation plan, and then testing would go back to every two years at least temporarily.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 9/30/24.

It is recommended that staff files be organized directly like the staff tracking sheet for better organization.

I-Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I-Power profiles and training hours need to be uploaded as well into I - Power. The center is beginning the IQ4K process which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The on-site supervisor paperwork should be sent to this consultant for review.

*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.