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

Name of Center: Pied Piper Preschool & Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17934

Street: 1108 S Main St **City:** Traer Iowa **Zip** 50675 **County:** Tama

Mailing Address: 1108 S Main St, Traer, IA, 50675

Director's Name: Michelle Gethmann **Phone Number:** 319-478-2310

On-Site Supervisor(s): Marisa Ingalls **E-Mail:** piedpiper2310@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-09-2025

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:** 06-25-2024

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

Date Inspected: 08-09-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years; competed by Steve Sonderlieter Fire Inspector

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

Financial Type: Profit X 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	11	17	22	25	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 07-11-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed on 7-9-25. The assistant director was present for the entire visit.

Pied Piper Preschool and Child Care Center in Traer has been in operation for several years and is located in a free standing building with secured entrances; offering care from 5:45 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. The Center serves infants through school-aged children up to ten-years-old. The center has a Board of Directors. Michelle Gethmann is the director of the center. Michelle has been with the center since 2001. She is a member of the National After-School Alliance Program She has her early childhood diploma from Hawkeye Community College. Marissa Ingalls is the Assistant Director, beginning 2023. Marissa has been with the center off and on since 2016 and is completing directors' classes.

The center has created their own curriculum based on other programs and pulled from Iowa Early Learning Standards. Teachers complete their own monthly lesson plans. The center is using the ProCare Application to communicate with families.

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

Classroom Observations: This center uses curriculum crafted by Teachers and information pulled from the Iowa Early Learning Standards.. Schedules and menus were posted in the rooms. Teachers are in ratio; helping with transition from outdoor play time to lunches. There was good handwashing technique observed. Teachers were nurturing while maintaining structure, with children that were content. The classrooms are clean and nicely arranged. The classrooms displayed child crafted projects/art.

Nutritional Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff to prepare meals. The center provides breakfast, AM/PM Snack and Lunch. This center participates in the CACFP nutrition program. The assistant director crafts the menu, that rotates seasonally. The meals are prepared onsite and served family-style in the classrooms by staff. The kitchen was very clean and very organized.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securing accessible to adults only; Emergency response plans were posted along with handwashing signs. The center has several first aid kits.. Fire/Tornado drills were documented as completed monthly as required. Restrooms clean and offered necessary toiletries. The building as a whole was organized, making good use of the space and clean.

Playground observation: The center has brand new playground equipment; that is enclosed by chain link. There are several shade structures; and safety surfacing is pour and play. The infants playground is still undergoing renovations.

Transportation/field trips: This center does not provide transportation at this time. The Center took walks around the community this summer to parks or to a nursing home in the community.

Administrative Review: The center has conspicuously posted information regarding mandatory reporter; handbook availability; consultant contact, license and non-smoking signs along with emergency plans in case of fire of tornado. Five staff files were reviewed with 2 in need of staff physicals and one staff needing to follow up completed a record check evaluation which the assistant director indicated was submitted the same day as this visit. Five child files were reviewed, with all required information. A recommendation was made that the files be updated annually and when changes occur.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director and the assistant director work well as a team.

The staff at the center work well together and have formed a strong sense of teamwork.

The center has several long term staff, working at the center for many years.

The center is the only daycare center in Traer and provides a needed service in the community.

The center offers part-time care.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. Two staff needed to submit physical forms.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full two-year license is recommended.

Discussion took pace with regard to ensuring staff are completing yearly training and having the certificates in the file and/or Ipower for licensing purposes.

Radon testing was completed after the visit on 9/27/23, and results were below the 4.0 cutoff level.

The menus continue to reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines and they are on the food program.

This center was very clean and organized with a new expansive outdoor play area. The teachers were observed to be nurturing while maintaining good structure. The children were content.

Teachers, the Director and Assistant director work well together.

*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.