Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center I

Provider No.: 16664

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

County: Polk

Director's Name: Madka Habte

On-Site Supervisor: Opheliah Gimer

Phone Number: 5152236161

E-Mail: director@traditions1.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/28/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2026 to 06/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/18/2026

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing, these inspections are due at least every three years. West Des Moines Fire Marshals typically do annual inspections.

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	24	12	48	66	150
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 4/28/26. The director was present for the entire inspection and the on-site supervisor for a portion of the inspection. The director of Traditions IV was also present towards the end of the 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.

Traditions Children's Center I is one of nine centers owned by Bonnie Netteland. The building is located on Vista Avenue within an apartment complex area. Madka Habte is the director of this center as of 8/2025. Madka has experience working in child care and for the Traditions Company and has also taken a number of professional development training courses over the years. Opheliah Gimer is the on-site supervisor. Opheliah has past experience being a director and an on-site supervisor for the Traditions Company.

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. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 29 children.

During the inspection, the school-age children were not present as they were in school. All of the other children present were napping in cribs and cots as the inspection took place after lunch and during nap time. Toys, tables, cribs, cots, etc. are being cleaned and sanitized daily. Diapering tables are disinfected after each diaper change and staff discussed the dwell

time for the disinfect being used on these diapering tables. Staff also discussed where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

NUTRITION: The center will provide breakfast to children who arrive really early. Parents bring in the cereal for their child and the center will serve the cereal with milk and a fruit. The center then serves an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack to children. Meals rotate every four weeks and all menus met CACFP requirements. The center has a kitchen where meals are prepared and children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs. Food storage was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has a bus that they use to transport school-age children to/from school and the center. School-age children also go on field trips. Field trips are mostly taken during the summer months. The center may also bring in different agencies for presentations to children at times throughout the year. Regular maintenance is performed on the center buses throughout the company.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playground next to each other and both a fenced in. Wood chips are used for surfacing around climbing structures. There were some issues with a cord dangling off the building and the wooden border around the fence having stakes exposed and rotting wood that will need to be replaced in one border area. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted .

For more challenging child behaviors, the director (and company as a whole) has monthly staff meetings where they stress teamwork and communication with each other as well as parents to help get behaviors under control and manageable. Staff are taught to talk to children and redirect them in positive ways.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This is one of several centers owned by Bonnie Netteland. The same policies and procedures are used at all centers. All of the directors of these centers have monthly staff meetings with each other. Individual center monthly staff meetings are also conducted.

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 new 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.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to

accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic. There was a cord of some sort dangling off of the building. It looked similar to a phone cord. There was also a corner area of the younger playground where stakes were exposed from the wooden border where the wood was also rotting. This will need to be replaced.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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. THIS WILL BE DUE AGAIN IN ALL CLASSROOMS NEXT APRIL (4/2027).

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 9/10/25.

I-Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. All staff appear to be uploading training hours/certificates.

This consultant's phone number will need to be changed in the center's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

It is recommended that telephone cords in classrooms be kept up on perhaps a hook.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The director stated the application and payment was sent on 4/21/26.

Date: 04/29/2026

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.