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

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center II Bldg 100 **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26308

Street: 480 S 51st St Bldg 100 **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 480 S 51st St Bldg 100, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Jennifer Wilson **Phone Number:** 515-327-1010

On-Site Supervisor(s): Megan Waldron **E-Mail:** director@traditions2100.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-22-2024

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:** 01-03-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-21-2023

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	24	93	60	201
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-22-2024

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 1/22/24. The new director was present throughout the visit as was the director, Stephanie Almandinger (formerly Swolley), from the Traditions center next door.

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 (only partially because of the large amount of snow cover on the ground), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Traditions II Building 100 is located in West Des Moines right next door to Traditions II Building 200. This center is owned by Bonnie and Robert Netteland. Bonnie and Robert own all of the Tradition Centers as well as the two Clive Children Centers. This center, like the other related centers, serves children ages six weeks in age to 12 years in age using a combination of the Creative Learning Curriculum and their own learning curriculum. There are enclosed classrooms for children ages six weeks in age through roughly four years in age. Children who are older four's and children five and older are located in the open, middle sections of the center. There are a total of nine classrooms although, like last year, not all of them are currently being used.

The director of this center as of 12/2023 is now Jennifer Wilson. Jennifer was previously an on-site supervisor. Jennifer has enough experience and professional development training hours to meet the qualifications for director. Megan Waldron continues to be the on-site supervisor at this location.

During the visit, children were observed being held by staff in the infant room, engaged in free-choice play in some of the other classrooms, and doing art projects in another classroom. Staff were attentive to children's needs and sitting on the floor with children as they played.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment remains steady.

There is a secure entrance into the main center area. Each family is given a code to enter to gain access. Other visitors have to ring a doorbell. The director's office is directly to the left of the main entrance as well.

Parents sign their child into/out of the center using the electronic Pro-Care system. Staff also use this system for clocking in and out of their shifts.

All of the Traditions Centers and Clive Children's Centers have the same owner. The centers utilize the same handbooks and can also share staff if needed.

The annual child update forms used by this center and related centers are often times used by this consultant as a guide for other centers to use.

All of the directors have bi-weekly meetings with each other. All on-site supervisors also have formal meetings with each other throughout the year. In addition, all of the centers also have regular, monthly all center-staff meetings.

The center works with CCR&R on a regular basis. The center has also incorporated ITERS, ECERS, and PBIS.

The center is starting the process of IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Good staff/child interactions were again observed in all classrooms.

There is a full-time cook.

The director has many year worth of experience working in child care.

Many tenured staff work at this location . Staff reportedly enjoy working together and bouncing ideas off of each other in regards to their jobs.

The corporation as a whole, often times promotes from within. Staff are eligible for benefits and wage increases.

The center has good community partnership with other schools (when picking up dropping off children).

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

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.
1 SING record check was not completed all of the way through. This is the same long-tenured staff member as last year. Previous record checks have all cleared. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 12/15/23 - 12/18/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff (all classrooms will have to be tested in the future). 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 last completed 8/16/23.

The center goes on field trips. The center also transports school-age children to/from the center and their schools using center owned vans and buses. Regular maintenance is performed on the buses.

IQ4K and I-Power were discussed at the visit. It appears several staff need to upload training certificates to their profile in I - Power.

One of the buses observed again needs to have the floor swept clean.

As stated last year, it is recommended that plastic toys/houses/etc. should not be stored on top of single/narrow shelves unless the shelves are up against the wall.

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

*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.