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

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center II Bldg 100 **Enrollment:** 80 **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: Mary Johnson - Spencer **Phone Number:** 515-327-1010

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

Date(s) of Visit: 01-21-2025

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:** 01-03-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-23-2024

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years for licensing. The City of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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:** 01-21-2025

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 1/21/25. The new director was present throughout the visit and the director from Traditions IV was present for a 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 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 two years, not all of them are currently being used.

The director of this center as of 8/2024 is Mary Johnson - Spencer. Mary has an AA degree and has worked for Traditions for many years. Megan Waldron continues to be the on-site supervisor at this location. Megan also has many years of experience working in child care.

During the visit, three classrooms were in use and the school-age children were at school. In the infant room, two children were being held by staff. Two children were sitting at a child-size table in child-size chairs. In the two and three - five year old classrooms, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were engaged with children and their activities. Children in the three - five year old classroom gave specific answers when asked as to where they go for monthly fire and tornado drills. The center was clean and staff are cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting items daily.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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. Preschool staff have monthly meetings with each other. 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.

Several centers within the company have started the IQ4K process which is voluntary and based on best practice.

Good staff/child interactions were again observed in 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. Staff retention within the company the past year was very good.

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).

There is now a staff breakroom.

A new fence has been put around the majority of the playground within the past year.

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

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.
There is a basketball hoop/backboard on the school-age playground that should be removed because it is broken.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
The oatmeal raisin cookies are not considered credible per CACFP guidelines.

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 10/10/24.

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 staff who work at this center are linked to this center and are uploading training into I - Power if it is not automatically uploaded for them.

It is recommended that dividers be put in place between the restroom toilets for school-age children.

Staff should ensure that all child lock cabinets latch when being closed.

The CACFP smart phone app was shown to the director during the visit.

*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.