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

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center I **Enrollment:** 61 **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: Valerie Gustafson **Phone Number:** 515-223-6161

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Petersen **E-Mail:** director@traditions1.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-23-2023

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:** 04-29-2022

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

Date Inspected: 04-13-2023

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	12	48	66	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-23-2023

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 5/23/23. The new director was present throughout 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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Traditions Children's Center I is one of nine centers owned by Bonnie and Robert Netteland. The building is located on Vista Avenue in an apartment complex area. Valerie Gustafson is the new director as of 1/2023. Valerie was previously an on-site supervisor. Ashley Petersen remains on as the on-site supervisors at this center. Both individuals meet the requirements for their positions.

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 napping and/or getting ready to nap in some classrooms, washing their hands, eating lunch, and engaged in free choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms.

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.

The center is a QRS Level 4. This is a voluntary program. The center is considering IQ4K which has taken the place of QRS.

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 has past experience working in this center and as an on-site supervisor in the past.

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

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together. The director stated she has good workers.

The director feels supported by upper management and stated she loves her job.

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

The old playground equipment has been taken out and this has really opened up the playground for children to just run around and play.

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

237A.7: Information regarding a child in a child care center or their relative is confidential. If this information is released by visual, verbal or written means, written consent from the parent or guardian is in the file or a court order allowing the release of the information.
Some children had allergy medication and their pictures posted in plain site. This is okay to do so long as the above is being met. Parent permission is needed.

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.
1. Two tricycles need to have peddles.
2. The phone cord in the two year old classroom is too long. It needs to be more securely fastened so it is out of children's reach.

109.11(5): Telephone: Working non-pay phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting. List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone.
This posting was missing in the school-age classroom by that phone.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The AM and PM schedules were missing for school-age children.

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.
INFANT SHOULD NOT BE SWADDLED UNLESS THE ABOVE CRITERIA IS MET.

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 owns several buses and a van. These are also used to transport school-age children to/from school.

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 11/10/22.

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

The director should contact DCI on the one staff fingerprint results which were taken almost two months ago. The record check packet was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I-Power profiles.

This consultant's contact information will need to be changed in the center's Emergency Preparedness written plan.

Staff should keep purses in a location that is not accessible to children at all times.

One staff member has roughly 30 days yet to finish new employee initial trainings that need to be completed within the first 90 days of employment.

*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.