Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Pied Piper Preschool & Child Care Center

Provider No.: 17934

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

County: Tama

Director's Name: Michelle Gethmann

On-Site Supervisor: Marisa Ingalls

Phone Number: 3194782310

E-Mail: piedpiper2310@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/10/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/06/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years; competed by Courtney Schuller, Fire Inspector, Dept of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL)

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:45 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:45 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:45 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:45 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:45 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	11	17	22	25	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was conducted 7/10/26. The 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.

Classroom Observations: Teachers are in ratio and children content. The children were getting ready for lunch and/or outdoor playing. . The classrooms are clean and nicely arranged. The classrooms displayed child crafted projects/art. Each classroom offers a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and play centers.

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.

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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 newly completed and offers play structures and shade.

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. The school bus stops at the center to pick-up/drop off children for school.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has attained Level I in IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve upon.)

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.

The center offers secure entrances and video monitoring.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

109.11(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

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

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
--The director will ensure families provide sufficient information to seek emergency medical and dental care for the child's files.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-The center documentation of emergency drills was missing drill information for June 2026, this is unusual for the center, which had documented completion of all other months emergency drills

109.11(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space:

Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-Radon testing completed 10/2025 showed levels well above the safety cutoff of 4.0
-The director will repeat Radon testing, and if levels are again above safety cutoff of 4.0; a radon mitigation system should be discussed and implemented.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full two-year license is recommended.

Radon testing completed in 10/2025 revealed elevated levels above the safety threshold of 4.0 and the center will be repeating testing.

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

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The center offers staff training to help with classroom behavior management techniques. Staff members work well together and are able to seek out the director and assistant director when needed for behavioral concerns. The center is able to work with AEA or other professionals to assist in behavioral management also.

Date: 07/19/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.