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

Name of Center: Traditions Children's Center IV **Enrollment:** 130 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19833

Street: 2555 NW 156th ST **City:** Clive Iowa **Zip** 50325 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2555 NW 156th ST, Clive, IA, 50325

Director's Name: Nicole Zahn **Phone Number:** 515-987-7467

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Rench, Erin Weaver, Ashley Thompson, Jennifer Lopez **E-Mail:** director@traditions4.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-30-2025

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:** 07-31-2025

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

Date Inspected: 06-10-2025

Comments : Clive Fire Marshal. For licensing, these are due at least every three years. The city of Clive typically do 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	34	28	48	70	180
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-31-2025

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing inspection visit was conducted on 7/30/25. The 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.

Traditions IV is one of several centers owned by Robert and Bonnie Netteland and their two adult children. This center serves children six weeks in age to 12 years in age. The center uses their own learning curriculum that they have developed over the years. There are a total of nine classrooms. The director of this center is Nicole Zahn. Nicole has worked for Traditions for a number of years and has been the director at several other Tradition sites over that time. Ashley Rench, Erin Weaver (formerly Klinkhammer), Ashley Thompson, and Jennifer Lopez are the on-site supervisors at this center. All four individuals meet the qualifications as on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observing singing and dancing, engaged in free-choice play at different learning stations made available to them, playing a large motor activity game outside, napping in cribs, washing hands, and sitting down to eat in high chairs and child-size tables and chairs. Staff were actively engaged in all activities with children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

All Tradition Centers and Clive Children Centers have the same owner and share the same handbooks/guidelines/policies/staff(to sub if needed) /etc.

The annual child update forms used by this program and the above programs have been frequently used by this consultant as a good example of what other centers should emulate.

Newletters are periodically provided to parents via the center's electronic app and this electronic app is also used for daily sheets for infants. There is also a website.

Staff meetings are held every month. The directors at all of the Traditions and Clive Children Centers have monthly meetings.

The director believes she has a really good group of staff who work well with one another. There are several tenured staff who work at this location. Staff retention is good.

The director has good organizational skills and has her NAC certification. She is also an internal regional director for the Traditions programs.

The building has a secure entrance and the center uses the Pro-Care system for signing in/out. There is also an outdoor

security camera.

The center uses a walkie-talkie system for improved communications between classrooms and the office.

Individual lesson plans have been incorporated for children six weeks in age to two years in age.

If parents bring in cereal, the center will provide breakfast for children and include the milk and a fruit.

The center utilizes their CCNC and CCR&R consultants on a regular basis.

Enrollment remains steady.

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

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. More wood chips are needed on the playground at the fall zone areas (bottom of swings and bottom of slides)

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 7/21/23- 7/24/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. 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 has several buses that they use to transport children to/from school and for field trips. Children five and older are eligible to go on field trips. Buses are serviced regularly.

I-Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded. The center is currently working with CCR&R in regards to IQ4K.

It is recommended the playground area be leveled out so that there is better drainage and wood chips don't continuously wash away. It is also recommended that outdoor rubber playground mats be purchased and placed under swings and at the bottom of slides.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent in by the director on 7/31/25 per an email sent to this consultant.

*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.