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

Name of Center: Pied Piper Preschool & Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17934

Street: 1108 S Main St **City:** Traer Iowa **Zip** 50675 **County:** Tama

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

Director's Name: Michelle Gethmann **Phone Number:** 319-478-2310

On-Site Supervisor(s): Marissa Ingalls **E-Mail:** piedpiper2310@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-25-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-17-2021

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

Date Inspected: 08-09-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X 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	11	17	22	25	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-05-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was completed 7/24/25. The director and assistant director were present for this 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 staff complete their own monthly lesson plans. The center is starting to use the ProCare Application.

All areas of the program were observed on 7/25/24. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Classroom Observations: This center has pulled curriculum based off Iowa Early Learning Standards. Schedules and menus were posted in the rooms. Staff are in ratio. The rooms have a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers and toys. Staff were observed to maintain good structure and to respond in a nurturing manner. Handwashing posters were hung as required. The classes were in transition between snacks and outdoor play time when this visit occurred.

Nutritional Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff to prepare meals. The center provides breakfast, AM/PM Snack and Lunch. There is a 4-week rotation to menus that reflect compliance with CACFP guidelines. The meals are prepared onsite and served family-style in the classrooms by staff. The kitchen was very clean and very organized.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securing accessible to adults only; Handwashing signs were posted and good handwashing practices were being utilized. The center has several first aid kits and has conspicuously emergency plans. Except for August, fire and tornado drills were documented to have been completed. Restrooms were orderly with necessary toiletries. The building as a whole was organized, making good use of the space and clean.

Playground observation: The center has a greenspace/play area enclosed by chain link fencing that is in good condition. The center has removed a tree from last year and new play equipment is ready to be assembled. This center offers a lot of outdoor play areas with natural 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.

Administrative Review: The center has conspicuously posted information regarding mandatory reporter; handbook

availability; consultant contact, license and non-smoking signs along with emergency plans in case of fire of tornado. Four staff files were reviewed; one needing a repeated National (fingerprint) check; one staff needing a physical on file; and a staff needing to complete essentials training. The director completed a SING check during this visit. Five child files were reviewed; one missing a physical and immunization records. This center has well-established policies/procedures.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Michelle has recently become the sole director after several years of having a co-director who is still available at times. Michelle is already identifying additional staff to assist with administrative duties.

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 from 2-25+ years.

The center is the only daycare center in Traer and provides a needed service in the community.

The center offers part-time care.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment. For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was provided a copy of playground safety checks form.

Radon testing was completed after the visit on 9/27/23, and results were below the 4.0 cutoff level.

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

This center was very clean and organized. The children appeared content and staff were observed to be actively involved in staff-lead activities or with the children in individual activities.

The center is awaiting assembly of new play equipment for older children that was on site, but had not yet been assembled during this 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.