Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mother Goose Learning Center

Provider No.: 51394

Address: 1355 Boyson Loop, Hiawatha, IA, 52233

County: Linn

Director's Name: Pamela Groth

On-Site Supervisor: Alisha Kimm, Rosie Tharp

Phone Number: 3198321247

E-Mail: mgooseh@qwestoffice.net

HHS Visit Date: 06/03/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 11/17/2025

Comments:

**Report Visit Type:**

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

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

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

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| HOURS: | Year-round | School-Year | Summer Only |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM | | |
| Tuesday | 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM | | |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM | | |
| Thursday | 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM | | |
| Friday | 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM | | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 36 | 36 | 58 | | 130 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

Mother Goose Learning Center - 51394 commenced operations in May 2021 after an ownership change (formerly Mother Goose Learning Center - 24471; operating since 2007). Mother Goose Learning Center operates year-round, M-F, 6:30am to 5:30pm and serves children age infant through 5yo. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 103 on 6/3/2026.

Mother Goose Learning Center owner and director is Pamela Groth. Ms. Groth has a CNA degree, has experience working with children, and participates in professional development. Specific on-site supervisors have remained consistent, have experience working with children and participate in professional development.

On 6/3/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in age defined classrooms. Program materials are organized in cabinets and on shelves for ease of use. The program has access to a large indoor gymnasium and outdoor play areas. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. There is an on-site kitchen in which all foods are prepared. Upon entering the center, the aroma of lunchtime grilled cheese sandwich preparations could be enjoyed. On 6/3/2026, the area of study included "Under the Sea". Each classroom door was noted to have been uniquely and cleverly staff decorated to incorporate an under the sea theme (e.g. toddler room's Classmates Are Friends Not Food, Jr PS room's Happy to Sea You)! Activities observed included infant cares, large group discussion, center play exploration (e.g. Very clever Junior Preschool Aquarium ticket purchasing with visit imaginative play), and outdoor large gross motor play. One such example occurred in the Pre-K room in which an aquatic themed story was shared with mild calisthenics following (e.g. swim like a fish, puff up like a puffer fish). The day of this license was found to also be the center's first day of outdoor water play that included water squirters, bubbles and rubber ducks in sensory tables. Many squeals of delight were heard as children had an opportunity to enjoy a special water day shaved ice or freeze pop

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treat. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions were observed to go smoothly and included clean-up procedures and restroom/drink breaks. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as build cognitive skills, strengthen emotional intelligence, enhance physical coordination, and encourage the use of social graces. On 6/3/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive behavior interventions when needed and engaged in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be truly enjoying the day.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

The mission of Mother Goose Learning Center is to "...foster a learning environment where all children will develop a love for learning that will last them a lifetime".

Mother Goose Learning Center has the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://mgoose1.net/.

As of 6/3/2026, combined owner and director Ms. Groth remains a local entrepreneur invested in the city of Cedar Rapids and surrounding community. Ms. Groth is a childcare mentor and has established relationships with other childcare management teams. Ms. Groth is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as her own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Groth is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. Ms. Groth acknowledged her seasoned team of employees who are professional and reliable. Staff throughout the center reported celebrating 15 years, 5 years, 3 years and 3 months of employment with Mother Goose Learning Center. Staff appreciation includes annual Teacher Appreciation Week events, acknowledgement of staff successes, professional resources with training and recognition events.

On 6/3/2026, Mother Goose Learning Center was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining family-program information centers, offering regular newsletters, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Mother Goose Learning Center curriculum continues to include a combination of learning strategies incorporating Creative Curriculum, Iowa Early Learning Standards, Jolly Phonics, Hand Writing Without Tears, Paths, STEM activities, sign language, year-round preschool learning and teacher-inspired ideas. Learning incorporates on-site guest speaker experiences as well as a variety of annual events including a Trike-A-Thon, week of the young child celebration, fall festival, holiday food drive, book fairs, Thanksgiving luncheon, employee baking contests, Thanksgiving Play, Christmas Caroling, Angel Tree donations, reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" celebration, gardening and camping adventures, parent/program conferences, spring graduation, and enrichment opportunities. Enrichments have included Music Therapy (provided by a licensed music therapist), Soccer Shots, instructional dance, gardening, cooking, cultural diversity, foreign language and sign-language. Summer 2026 activities include designated days for riding bikes, water playing, cooking, science experiments, games-obstacle course, and crafts. It's noted this program has high family volunteer participation.

Mother Goose Learning Center continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning checklists and reminders were observed in various areas. Staff throughout the rooms discussed how they continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Management acknowledged having center-wide professional growth days built into the center's calendar for not only staff training but for deep cleaning and preparing classrooms for the new school-year.

Mother Goose Learning Center continues to have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Mother Goose Learning Center has successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

None noted.

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

Not applicable.

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**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with director Ms. Groth oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Ms. Groth discussed having one classroom currently participating in the Tanager Place for the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program. Ms. Groth talked about how IECMHC includes resources to address challenging behaviors as well as provide staff with professional development and designated time to talk about their room and any frustrations. Ms. Groth reported offering a specific expressive arts curriculum monthly which allows children an opportunity to express their emotions through the use of art. Ms. Groth talked about encouraging all staff to participate PBIS training. Ms. Groth also discussed how she is present in her center talking with staff, ensuring staff have breaks, establishing child behavior plans and exercising required polices for enrollment and discharge of children as needed.

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The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 06/12/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.