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

Name of Center: Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point **Enrollment:** 53 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51054

Street: 427 Franklin ST **City:** Center Point Iowa **Zip** 52213 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 427 Franklin ST, Center Point, IA, 52213

Director's Name: Amber Taylor **Phone Number:** 319-849-1641

On-Site Supervisor(s): Bailey Alberts **E-Mail:** amberswatek@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-06-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-16-2022

Comments :

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	16	12	17	3	48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-09-2025

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool operates the following two childcare programs: Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids and Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point. Specifically, Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point commenced operations on 11/30/2020. This childcare program is located in a predominantly rural community. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point operates year-round, Monday through Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm. The program offers a variety of early learning programming and opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Points serves children birth through school-age. Current enrollment is 53.

Founding multi-site owner and director of Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point is Amber Taylor. Ms. Taylor as a 2-year degree in early childhood education, has over 25 years of experience working with children, has several years of prior director experience, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 6/6/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool is well-established offering a variety of early learning programming and childcare to help meet the needs of children and families in the community. Specifically, Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point is located in a predominantly rural area and accepts a variety of funding sources. In November, Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point will be celebrating their 5th year of providing childcare within a rural community. Congratulations!

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids and Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point sponsor a social media page for enrolled families and current employees.

The philosophy of Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids and Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point is "...to provide a safe and secure environment that aids in the development and advancement of children...children will enjoy learning through programs that stimulate their creative, intellectual, physical and social skills..."

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool programs have a history of participating in quality initiatives including CACFP at the Cedar Rapids location, QRS and local quality initiatives. Ms. Taylor continues her outreach with other licensed childcare owners and directors. Ms. Taylor also talked about future goals of participation in CACFP at the Center Point location.

Owner/director Amber Taylor is a local entrepreneur offering two early learning options for families throughout the Linn County community. Ms. Taylor has been a licensed childcare owner since 2018 and has several years of director experience. Ms. Taylor is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as her own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Taylor has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a confidential manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations.

Since the last monitoring visit, the program has retained many seasoned employees as well as obtained a few new ones. Ms. Taylor discussed gratitude for her reliable, good team of employees including her solid team of high-school-aged staff who are so willing to work the early morning and late afternoon split shifts. Ms. Taylor reported staff appreciation, flexible scheduling when possible, competitive wages, rewarding attendance, and support for ongoing professional goals are part of the program's successful operations.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool programs have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, multi-year (e.g. 2023, 2025) air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Building and grounds are maintained. Since the last review, the outdoor play area received some updating including creating a separate space for younger and older children. Center kitchen is extremely well-organized, well-maintained, and sanitary. A unique 5-day established system to assist with food service was observed. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner to keep learning at the forefront. Classrooms have many supplies (e.g. farm inspired games, nesting puzzles, grill/home living) which encourage imaginative play and innovation. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point curriculum includes a combination of learning strategies incorporating teacher-inspired ideas, phonics work, math concepts, science experiments, small and large gross motor, imaginative play experiences, and crafts. Curriculum also includes on-site guest speaker events, walking field trips, gardening events, annual events (e.g. graduation, ice cream social), cooking projects, hands on learning/sensory experiences, holiday/seasonal celebrations, and themed days (e.g. summer fun). At times, optional additional enrichment programs are also available including soccer shots, dance classes, and library literacy. While on-site, several staff excitedly discussed this site's 2025 summer programming that includes a variety of clever themed days (e.g. show-n-tell day, popsicle day, movie in pjs day, Xmas in July celebration, crazy hair day)! One staff indicated looking most forward to their unit study on the ocean as they have many new ideas and activities to try this year!

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Taylor talked about having a wait list and discussed how an extended family member of an enrolled child, who doesn't come into the center often, recently expressed much positive feedback.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Center Point collaborates well with community partners including local businesses, health professionals, and local school districts. The program participates in early vision screenings through a partnership with the Lions Club.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Families and children were observed to be warmly greeted upon arrival. The summer season was the area of study currently underway throughout the center. Evidence of summer themed skilled crafts were observed to be displayed throughout the classrooms (e.g. painted popsicles, ice cream crafts). It was also clear that children were encouraged to wear their favorite pair of summer sunglasses to the program today as many were seen transitioning outdoors after having first excitedly retrieved them! Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, sensory items, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Child friendly music was overheard playing in several rooms as activities occurred (e.g. infant cares, center play experiences, book reading, small group work, Unique watermelon craft incorporating many fine gross motor skills!). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, outdoor play) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with meaningful discussion, using positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please continue to ensure thistles are removed from the outdoor play areas.

Replace any cracked heavy plastic items (preschool room kitchen sink container).

Please continue to ensure the newly donated television for special movie days-celebrations and taller shelving are secured to help prevent a topple hazard.

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