Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mother Goose Child Care & Preschool Site III

Provider No.: 30903

Address: 108 N 22nd ST, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Robert Caputo

On-Site Supervisor: Jackie Watts

Phone Number: 7123231899

E-Mail: mothergoosechildcare@outlook.com
jwattsmo3@aol.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 09/08/2025

Comments:

**Report Visit Type:**

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] 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 | 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Tuesday | 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Wednesday | 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Thursday | 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Friday | 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM | | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 12 | | 10 | 30 | 52 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Mother Goose Child Care & Preschool Sites II and III on 9/23/26. I met with Jackie Watts during my visit. Site III provides care to infants and school age children from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. The infants are located upstairs and the school age children are downstairs. School age programming is being held before and after school at Site II. All day programming is held at Site III in the basement. Jackie said the school age children are in the Mother Goose Site II building to eat lunch and other activities at times. Robert and Ardith Caputo are the owners. The center does not have a current director although Bob and Jackie are working on becoming co-directors. It is located across the street from Mother Goose Site III which provides care for infants and school age children. The center is located in a residential neighborhood. There is a total of 28 children enrolled between both centers. Bob and Ardith Caputo celebrated fifty-five years in child care in February 2022. They opened their first child care center on the farm in February 1967. This is an amazing accomplishment.

Observation of rooms:
There are two programming areas. The room upstairs is the infant room and the room downstairs is for school aged children. I observed the infants during my visit. The school age children were at school at the time of my visit. The school age children must be in the school age area at all times and cannot be combined with any children three years old and younger. The center had lesson plans and a daily schedule. Angie creates her own lesson plans.

Nutrition:
The center provides breakfast, lunch, and two snacks. Jackie prepares the meals. Menus were not posted in the infant area. Please post menus. Even though you aren't on the federal food program, you must follow the CACFP guidelines. Please refer to their website for food requirements.

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Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. In the infant area, Angie did not know how to get all four children out since they are located upstairs. They have an evacuation crib, but I am not sure if it will work on stairs. Please practice fire drills with the four infants you have to make sure you can get them out of the building. If you are unable to get them out of the building using the evacuation crib you have, please find another way to get the infants out of the building in the event of a fire. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed on 11/22/25. Radon testing was done in 2025 and was in the acceptable range. Radon testing is due every five years if the results are below 4.0 pCi/L. Bleach water is used for sanitizing and disinfecting. Jackie reports she mixes the bleach water for both sites on a daily basis in a gallon jug and then splits it into the bottles for both sites. I told Jackie to check her bottle of bleach to make sure she is mixing at the correct strength as different bottles of bleach may mix at different strengths. The bleach water bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting must be mixed correctly and mixed daily. Please use the three-step bottle procedure for sanitizing and disinfecting: 1. Soap and water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. If you are using bleach water make sure the bleach is EPA approved and you must follow the mixing directions on your specific bottle of bleach website. You may want to consider using something that does not require mixing. Please discuss other sanitizing and disinfecting products with your child care nurse consultant. One of the crib sheets was not tightfitting. Please replace the crib sheets that are not tightfitting. The center has a first aid kit but it is not stocked completely. I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to assist the center with completing their first aid kit. They will require one in each building. The emergency door was stuck and Jackie had to try several times to open the door. Please make sure the door works correctly so you can exit in an emergency. Please make sure to post emergency diagrams identifying the exits in the event of an emergency.

Playground:
A new playground was installed in the Spring of 2026. The swings need to be taken down as they are old and rusty. This is a safety hazard. However, the center very rarely goes outside. Jackie estimated they have been outside twice this year. The outdoor play space provides an opportunity for children to develop gross motor, intellectual, emotional and social skills. Children should have an opportunity for outdoor play at a minimum of once a day, with at least twice a day being preferred during full day programming. Please begin taking the children outside. Playground inspections have not been completed. The playground inspection form was sent to Jackie on 9/29/26. The playground area is fenced. Wood mulch is used for fall surfacing, but the playground appears to need more fall surfacing. Please refer to the Public Playground Safety Handbook for specific information. Angie said if the weather is nice and she only has one or two children, she will take them outside to play on the grassy area.

Transportation:
The center has a van that provides transportation to some local schools. The van is used for transportation for field trips. Make sure you keep a log of repairs and make sure you have a checklist of children's name that is used for when children enter the van, are dropped off and picked up from school, and when they exit the van returning to the center. Please check the van seats after each transition.

Administrative records:
I reviewed all three staff files. One staff member was complete, one staff member did not have the required annual professional development hours, and one staff did not have Universal Precautions, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and she could not find documentation that she took first aid/CPR although all staff reported they took the first aid/CPR training together. I reviewed five children’s files between both sites. Two were missing the name and number of a dentist, one did not have an emergency contact listed other than themselves, and one did not list permission as to who is allowed to pick up the child. Jackie could not find the immunization binder, so I was unable to check the immunization records. The Child Care Nurse Consultant is working with the center on making sure all the immunizations are current and on the correct form. One child’s physical said he has an inhaler; however, the parent never brought an inhaler. I informed Jackie she needed to ask the parents whether the child has an inhaler. Please review all children’s files and have them updated with the required information immediately.

Please make sure you have read and are knowledgeable of the Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures Handbook. This was emailed to Bob and Jackie in December 2025.

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

Staff are proud of the center and the care they provide. Staff are helpful during my licensing visits. The staff have amazing

longevity of working at the center. Jackie has more than 30 years, Bob has more than 50 years, and Angie has over 18 years. Staff have excellent interactions with the children. Jackie and Bob are currently working with Child Care Resource and Referral and the Child Care Nurse Consultant. The center provides transportation to and from three elementary schools in the area. Jackie identified their strengths as staff's ability to read and understand how a child is feeling, they modify lessons to meet the child's age and development, and they play with a purpose. Jackie has NAC accreditation.

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

109.6(1): Centers with multiple sites have a qualified director or on-site supervisor at all sites. Information on the director's qualifications is submitted to the consultant prior to employment and is sufficient to make a determination. Center director meets qualifications or is "qualifiable" with a plan established to meet qualifications. The center has no director. Bob and Jackie are working on becoming co-directors.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. I reviewed all three staff files. One staff member was complete, one staff member did not have the required annual professional development hours, and one staff did not have Universal Precautions, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and she could not find documentation that she took first aid/CPR although all staff reported they took the first aid/CPR training together.

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. I reviewed five children's files between both sites. Two were missing the name and number of a dentist, one did not have an emergency contact listed other than themselves, and one did not list permission as to who is allowed to pick up the child. Jackie could not find the immunization binder, so I was unable to check the immunization records.

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. The swings on the playground were old and rusty. This is a safety hazard to the children.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Monthly playground inspections have not been completed.

109.12(1)a: Program provides a curriculum or program of activities that promotes self-esteem and positive self-image, social interaction, self-expression and communication, creative expression, and problem-solving skills. The children have not been going outside. Children should be outside a minimum of once a day, but two or three times is preferable. According to Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures, "A curriculum or program of activities that supports development of self-esteem, self-regulation, positive social interactions, communication skills, curiosity, problem-solving, creative expression, and gross motor and fine motor development." Outdoor play time works on gross motor skills.

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

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

A full license is recommended for 10/1/25 to 10/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Jackie their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Jackie said they work together so they are able to recognize if another staff member is feeling overwhelmed. Staff will ask for help and they tag each other out when needed.

I made a referral to Child Care Resource and Referral to continue working with Mother Goose on the areas that fall below

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standards. Jackie and Bob need to continue working with CCR&R to identify a director. I would also like CCR&R to assist Jackie in making a licensing binder. I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to assist both centers in creating a first aid kit with all the necessary supplies, fall surfacing, and to discuss other options besides bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Date: 09/29/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.