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

Name of Center: Mother Goose Learning Center **Enrollment:** 109 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51394

Street: 1355 Boyson Loop **City:** Hiawatha Iowa **Zip** 52233 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 1355 Boyson Loop, Hiawatha, IA, 52233

Director's Name: Pamela Groth **Phone Number:** 319-832-1247

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alisha Kimm, Rachel Groves, Rosie Tharp **E-Mail:** mgooseh@qwestoffice.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-14-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-23-2023

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 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	36	36	58		130
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 05-17-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

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, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 5:30pm. The program offers a variety of full-time and part-time early learning experiences to children age infant through 5-years-old. Current enrollment is 109.

Mother Goose Learning Center owner and director is Pamela Groth. Prior to purchasing the learning center from the former owner, Ms. Groth had worked as a teacher and then director of the program for over 13 years. Ms. Groth has a CNA degree, over 19 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 5/14/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mother Goose Learning Center continues to be a well- established program offering many different early learning opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community.

In May 2024, Pamela Groth will begin her 4th year of ownership providing childcare and early learning services to children and their families throughout the community. Congratulations!

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/.

Mother Goose Learning Center has a history of participating in state and local quality initiatives. Ms. Groth talked about possible future goals to include IQ4K.

Owner/director Ms. Groth is 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/directors. 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. As a result, the program continues to experiences smooth daily operations.

Mother Goose Learning Center continues to retain many seasoned employees. The culinary chef has been with the program for over 15 years! It is evident she continues to take great pride in her work as the kitchen is well organized and sanitary. On the day of the monitoring visit, she was observed preparing pizza crust for lunchtime. Staff throughout the classrooms

reported celebrating 12 years, 3 years, and 1 year employment at Mother Goose Learning Center. Congratulations on staff longevity! Annual center-wide professional growth days built into the center's calendar for cleaning, preparing classrooms for the new school-year and professional growth training. The staff continue to complete the newly updated and relaunched Iowa PBIS Modules to help increase positive child responses (e.g. visual cues, 3yo room's "The Magic of Mistakes", healthy ways to express emotion). Staff appreciation (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Week events), acknowledgement of successes, and recognition events (e.g. Classroom of the Month) are also part of the program's operations.

Mother Goose Learning Center has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Mother Goose Learning Center has successfully navigated through various County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

Mother Goose Learning Center 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.

Building and grounds are well maintained. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, Beautiful child celebration display of their own Van Gogh Flower Vase, Unique letter chips with salsa!) are displayed in various areas of the program space. Curriculum includes Creative Curriculum, 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 fair, Thanksgiving luncheon, employee pumpkin baking contest, Thanksgiving Play, Christmas Caroling, 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.

Mother Goose Learning Center collaborates well with community partners including local schools, health professionals, other local childcare programs, and CCR&R.

The infant room has a “no shoe” policy and was observed supporting safe sleep practices.

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. Mother Goose Learning Center has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included cultural diversity and camping. Classroom doors were observed to be cleverly decorated (e.g. "Wild about Leap Frogging", "Exploring the Wild"). Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Several classrooms were observed to offer imaginative play experiences celebrating different countries and incorporating safari/rainforest trips/tours (e.g. 4yo room with dress-up animal masks). Some evidence of a prior day's early seed planting/gardening was found in older classrooms. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, circle with music and movement, group book reading, indoor large gross motor). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Staff communicated well with children verbally and through sign language. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, Outstanding noted - toddler group transition from the indoor gym to the classroom!) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, reassurance and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. 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:

The program's license remains in full status. 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.