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

Name of Center: Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids **Enrollment:** 93 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49515

Street: 4840 Richmar CT NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52405 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 4840 Richmar CT NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52405

Director's Name: Amber Taylor **Phone Number:** 319-396-2232

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lindsey Schrader; Ashlie Jepsen **E-Mail:** amberswatek@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-30-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 05-17-2024

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	12	45		93
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:** 06-07-2024

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 - Cedar Rapids has been in operation for many years undergoing an ownership change on 1/8/2018. This childcare program is located in a predominantly residential area of an urban community. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids operates year-round, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 5:30pm. 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 - Cedar Rapids serves infant through preschool age children. Current enrollment is 68.

Founding multi-site owner and director of Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids is Amber Taylor. Ms. Taylor as a 2-year degree in early childhood education, has over 20 years of experience working with children, has several years of prior director experience, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 5/30/2024, 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 - Cedar Rapids is located in a residential area of a predominantly urban area and accepts a variety of funding sources. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids has been in operation for many years celebrating the last 6 years under current owner/director Amber Taylor. 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, QRS and local quality initiatives. Ms. Taylor has also continues her outreach with other licensed childcare owners and directors.

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. Staff reported celebrating 15 years, 6 years, and 3 months of employment with Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids. Ms. Taylor discussed gratitude for her reliable, good team of employees. 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. Ms. Taylor also talked about the program's continued growth.

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 historic Linn 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.

Building and grounds are maintained. Center kitchen is extremely well-organized, well-maintained, and sanitary. Classrooms are arranged in a thoughtful manner to keep learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) and displays of program positivity are showcased throughout the program space. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids 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. ice cream social, pizza party), 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. One current enrichment happening in the preschool room involves gardening with seed sprouting happening (e.g. pumpkins, green beans, squash, lettuce) and eventual transplanting to newly established outdoor raised garden beds.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids 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 discussed the positive family feedback the program continues to receive.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids collaborates well with community partners including local businesses, health professionals, and local school districts. The local school district has been supportive of some transportation services for enrolled students. Ms. Taylor discussed how the Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool was recently "spotlighted" by CR Bank & Trust which included treats for employees.

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. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning supplies were observed in various areas on-site.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, musical instruments, sensory items, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, center play experiences, group circle discussion, Very enjoyable preschool graduation practice!). Impressive and noteworthy "cloud" study happening in the preschool room (e.g. cloud marshmallow creating, cotton ball clouds, sensory with clouds)! In the 4yo room, staff cleverly planned for and introduced the children to a new art medium (paining with frozen paint)! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed (One example - unique positive behavior game board display was observed in the preschool room) 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:

Ensure lower cabinets are child proofed or that contents are very child friendly.

Continue to ensure staff store personal items (e.g. purses) in inaccessible areas.

Continued leeway is granted regarding the outdoor play areas with the understanding remedies will be completed by the end of June 2024. Please forward photographs to licensing upon completion of the outdoor playground improvements.

A full license is issued. 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.