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 II

Provider No.: 7188

Address: 107 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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		14	35		49
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. The center provides care for toddlers, preschool age, and school age children from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. School age programming is being held before and after school at Site II. It is held across the street at Mother Goose Site III when there is programming all day. At Site III, the infants are upstairs and the school age children are downstairs. 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 with Child Care Resource and Referral on becoming co-directors. 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 three programming areas at Site II. The two rooms upstairs are the art room and another room that is used for a variety of activities and nap time. The room downstairs is used for activity centers and is where the children eat. I observed the children napping. The center was not in ratio based on age groupings. The center had children between two and four years old combined. The school age children were in school at the time of my visit. I spoke with my supervisor who agreed to allow two- to four-year-old children to be combined as long as the ratio is 1:10. No children under two years old or older than four years old can be combined. Children over the age of four years old need to be in the school age area across the street. No school age children are allowed to be with children three years old or younger at any time. The school age children must be in the school age area at all times and cannot be combined with the two- and three-year-old children. The center continues to try to remodel the girls' bathroom. This has been an issue for over one year. The center could benefit

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from the Growing Iowa grant to assist them in getting the girls' bathroom completed. The center had lesson plans and a daily schedule. Jackie creates her own lesson plans.

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

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. 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. Jackie reports they follow the proper medication procedures if a child is prescribed medication. 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. The cot sheets were stretched out. The center needs new cot sheets that are 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 locked and should remain locked at all times when the children are in the building.

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 as well as in December 2025. The playground area is fenced. Wood mulch is used for fall surfacing but the playground appears to need more fall surfacing. Please consult with the Child Care Nurse Consultant. Please refer to the Public Playground Safety Handbook for specific information.

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 with children's names that is used 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 the parents, 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, Jackie said they don't have an inhaler and that the parent never brought one. I informed Jackie she needed to ask the parents whether the child has an inhaler. Please review all child 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

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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 lesson plans 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(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children. The emergency exit door was locked. Please make sure the emergency exit door is unlocked at all times when children are present.

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 are old and rusty which is a safety hazard. They need to be removed.

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.

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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 have consulted with a supervisor and Mother Goose Child Care and Preschool Site II has been granted permission to mix two-year-olds to four-year-olds in the same room; however, they must maintain a ratio of 1:10 to ensure the safety of the younger children. The following rule is being waived as the center cannot easily manage aged-group sizes with just three rooms. However, no children under the age of two may be combined with the children through the age of four. No children over the age of four may be combined with the children between two and four years old.

109.8(2) c. Children between 18 months and three years of age may be combined, if appropriate to the developmental needs of the child.

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