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

Name of Center: Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids **Enrollment:** 80 **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: 06-04-2025

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

Date Inspected: 05-09-2025

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:** 06-09-2025

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 - 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 80.

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 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 6/4/2025, 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 - 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 7 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 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 areas received some updating including cushion surface replenishing. 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, Clever milestone handprint goldfish 3yo room art!) 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. 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.

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 continued increased enrollment.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids 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. Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool has been previously "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. 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. Areas of study throughout the center included ocean animals and colors. 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, circle group events with book reading, outdoor activities). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities) 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 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 review policies and procedures for safe sleep, infant bottle-dish washing and safety strap equipment engagement (e.g. high chairs) with all staff.

Repair the loose/missing floor trim (e.g. toddler room, 3yo room), the loose hand washing sink faucets (e.g. hallway restroom), and the one outdoor tire swing chain.

Please continue to ensure lower cabinets contain all child friendly items or are child proofed.

Continue to collaborate with neighboring properties regarding maintenance, overflowing refuse and unkept brush. The

conditions of neighboring properties can impact the safety, health and well-being of any business-property including a childcare business. It's also important to note - unkept adjacent properties could result in those properties being referred to additional agencies and/or departments.

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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.