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: Ardith K. and Robert Caputo

On-Site Supervisor: Jackie Watts

Phone Number: 7123231899

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

HHS Visit Date: 12/11/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/08/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] 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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Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [ ] 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

Unannounced licensing visits were made to Mother Goose Child Care & Preschool Sites II and III on 12/11/25 and 12/16/25. Mother Goose Site III is located in a residential area. The center provides care for infants on the main floor and school age children in the basement area. The school age programming is being held before and after school at Mother Goose Site II. It is held at Mother Goose Site III when there is programming all day. Jackie said the school age children are in the Mother Goose Site II building to eat lunch and other activities at times. The hours of operation are 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Robert and Ardith Caputo are the owners and directors of the center. Ardith received an Associate's Degree in Child Development- Business in 1968. Jackie Watts is the on-site supervisor. The center is located across the street from Mother Goose Site II which provides care to toddlers, preschool age, and school age children. There are 15 children enrolled in the center. 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. I met with Jackie Watts during my licensing visits on 12/11/25 and 12/16/25.

Observation of rooms:
I was able to observe Angie with the infant age children. Angie had excellent interactions with the four children present in the infant room; she is nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children. She has worked at the center for many years. The room was not in ratio. There was a two-year-old child with the infants. The infant room must be free from intrusion of children two years old and older. I provided Jackie with a list of guidelines for the age groups they serve on 12/16/25. The room looked nice and had a fun variety of toys. The daily sheets looked good. Safe sleep was not observed. The children's cots and cribs are in another room which limits Angie's ability to see all of the children at all times. The cribs and cots must be in the same room Angie is in at all times. A blanket was observed in an empty crib. Please follow safe sleep practices. Nothing should be in a crib with an infant. The school age children were at school during my licensing visit.

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. Please make sure to put all food in airtight containers after opening.

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. You need to do radon testing every five years if the testing level is below 4.0 pCi/L. There continues to be confusion about how much bleach/water to use for sanitizing and disinfecting. On 12/11/25, Jackie said she mixes the bleach/water for sanitizing and disinfecting for both buildings. She uses the ratio that is posted on the wall in the kitchen at Site II. One of the bottles used at the changing table said 1/3 Cup bleach to 1 gallon water on the bottle, but it is not a 1-gallon bottle. Jackie reports mixing the bleach water in gallon jugs at the

other site and then pours them into the spray bottles and distributes for both sites. 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/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. Incorrect sanitizing and disinfecting have been a violation every year since 2019. Jackie and staff have been trained in sanitizing and disinfecting several times and have been referred to their specific bottle of bleach for proper mixing instructions. It is very concerning that this has continued to be a violation since 2019. You may want to consider using something that does not require mixing. Please keep the bottles out of reach of the children. Please discuss other sanitizing/disinfecting products with your child care nurse consultant. Please fix the childproof lock under the kitchen sink which is where Angie keeps the three-step bottles. There must be a garbage can strictly for used diapers. Please get a garbage can for diapers and a separate garbage can for all other waste. Do not put used diapers in a used grocery sack or on the diaper changing station. All dishes washed in the sink must be sanitized. Lesson plans are needed for all age groups.

Playground:
Bob has previously reported that the wooden structure playground piece of equipment isn't used and will be removed. As of my visit on 12/11/25, much of the wooden structure had been removed. A new playground has not yet been installed. They only use the cement area. The playground area is fenced. Please refer to the Public Playground Safety Handbook for specific information. Playground inspections have not been completed. The playground inspection form was sent to Jackie on 12/11/25. The playground is located across the street at Mother Goose Site II.

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/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:
Jackie has NAC accreditation. Staff files were read and national record checks need completed. Jackie said the national record checks/fingerprinting were completed in September 2024 and they didn't receive the results. She said they didn't follow up to see why the record check results weren't returned or if they were ever received. National record checks expired in 2023. Jackie reported that Brenda from Child Care Resource and Referral will be coming on 12/19/25 to complete the fingerprinting and said they would send in the fingerprints right away. All four staff have current state record checks. One record check needs an evaluation. Please complete the transgression evaluation and email me the form that gives permission for the staff to work at the center. Please send me an email letting me know when you receive the national criminal record checks.

Seven child files were read between both sites. Four files were missing the annual physical or annual statement of health form signed by the parents. Children who are not yet in kindergarten are required to have an annual physical. Children enrolled in kindergarten and above may have an annual statement of health form signed by the parent. I emailed a copy of the statement of health to Jackie on 12/11/25. Three files were missing the name and/or number of the dentist. One was missing their current immunization record. Please review all child files and have them updated with the required information immediately. The staff and child file forms that state what is needed in the files were emailed to the center, Bob, and Jackie on 12/17/25. It has been sent to them in previous years as well.

Make sure you have read and are knowledgeable of the Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures Handbook. I emailed a copy of the current handbook to the center, Bob, and Jackie on 12/17/25. It has been emailed to Jackie in previous years as well.

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 and Ardith have more than 50 years, Angie has over 18 years, and Gabe has worked at the center for nine years. Staff have excellent interactions with the children. Jackie and Bob have received services from Child Care Resource and Referral in the past. Jackie reported that the center received a grant and new equipment will be ordered. They will continue to work on installing a new playground. The center provides transportation to and from three elementary schools in the area.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: National record checks expired in 2023. National record checks are due every four years. CCR&R rolled fingerprints for three staff members on 12/19/25. One staff member still needs to have his prints rolled. Any staff member who has a criminal charge is required to have a transgression evaluation. Please submit a transgression evaluation for the staff member that has the criminal charge.

109.7(2): Three staff members are missing required training and physical exams. Two staff members are missing physical exams which are required every three years. Two staff members are missing mandatory child abuse training which is required every three years. One is missing Universal Precautions which is required annually. One is missing the annual six hours of personal development training. Please review all files and make sure they have all necessary information.

109.8(2): One staff member is required in every room that a child is resting/napping. The cribs and cots are in a different room than Angie is in. The three children she has do not nap at the same time, which means Angie is not in the room with either the children napping on the children that are awake. Cribs and cots need to be in the same room Angie is in with all the children. Rooms must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. There was also a blanket in the crib for a child under one year old. Angie reported she takes it out when the child sleeps, but it should never be in the crib. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.

109.9(2)i: Children who are under kindergarten age are required to have an annual physical. Children who are in kindergarten or above are required to have an annual statement of health signed by the parents. Seven children's files were reviewed for both sites I and II and four were missing current physicals or statements of health. Three were missing the name and/or number for a dentist and one was missing their current immunizations record.

109.11(3)a: There continues to be concerns the bleach/water is not being mixed properly. This has been an ongoing issue for years. Angie also stores her three-step process below the kitchen sink and the childproof lock on the cabinet is broken which would risk the children getting to it. The kitchen sink only has two tubs. All dishes need the three-step process including sanitizing. The enter has only been washing with soap and water and rinsing. They need to start sanitizing the dishes after being washed and rinsed. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste. Diapers are required to have a garbage can for solely diapers and a separate garbage can for other waste. Angie would put diapers in a plastic bag on the changing tables or would set the soiled diapers on the changing table rather than throwing them away.

109.12(1)a: There were no lesson plans. Lesson plans are required for all ages. Centers must develop activity plans for all age groups.

109.12(4)a: Infants must be free from intrusion of children over two years old. There was a two-year-old that was in the room with the infants.

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.

Please send me an email by 1/31/26 letting me know how the noncompliance items have been corrected.

A referral to Child Care Resource and Referral was made; however, I received information that the center is not willing to work with CCR&R. If these areas are not improved by my visit in approximately three months, additional steps will be taken. I high recommend working with CCR&R and the Child Care Nurse Consultant.

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Date: 12/19/2025

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**.