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

Name of Center: Mother Goose Learning Center **Enrollment:** 105 **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, Rosie Tharp **E-Mail:** mgooseh@qwestoffice.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-19-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 10-24-2024

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	36	58		130
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-03-2025

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 105.

Mother Goose Learning Center owner and director is Pamela Groth. Ms. Groth has a CNA degree, over 20 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 5/19/2025, 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 5th 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.

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. Staff throughout the classrooms reported celebrating 11 years, 10 years, 3 years, and 3 weeks employment at Mother Goose Learning Center. Congratulations on staff longevity! Annual center-wide professional growth days are built into the center's calendar for cleaning, preparing classrooms for the new school-year and staff training. Staff appreciation (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Week events), acknowledgement of successes, professional resources with training 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, the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

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; Clever toddler room "I am this Tall" and duck pond milestone art) 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. Unique schedule of daily events posted on the Preschool A's yard stick! 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. Evidence of April's learning experiences and "Week of the Young Children" 2025 celebration was observed to have included theme days of music with movement on Monday, Tasty Tuesday, working together Wednesday, artsy Thursday and Family Friday.

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

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. 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 "Life on the Farm", flowers and bees. Classroom doors were observed to be cleverly decorated (e.g. "Junior PS is the Place to Bee"). 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 farm animals (e.g. blocks to build a farm with animals, "Farmer's Market" stand, sensory bins with hay and eggs). Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, circle with music and movement, art experience of pigs being painted with "mud", group book reading, outdoor 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, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with meaningful discussion, using positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff, were highly engaged in the day's activities and appeared to be truly enjoying themselves.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please continue to ensure any heavy plastic outdoor playground equipment (e.g. riding toys, kitchen set) does not present cracking, sharp edges, and so on.

Continue to refurbish wooden outdoor items including garden boxes to help prevent splinters.

As we discussed, please ensure preschool A room has an inaccessible-to-children area which is also close to the diapering station to store cleaners, disinfectants, diapers, creams and any necessary diapering items. Continue to review proper storage of such items with all staff.

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.