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: 02-20-2023

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: 05-20-2022

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 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-23-2023

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 93.

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 2/20/2023, 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 5 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 - Cedar Rapids has a history of participating in quality initiatives including a local quality program and CACFP. Ms. Taylor has goals to continue participation in quality initiatives as well as continue her outreach with other licensed childcare 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, 14 years, 3 years, 2 years, and 4 months of employment with Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids. One staff shared how she retired in 2022, only to return a short time later, because of her joy for children and childcare. This is quite noteworthy and impressive! Ms. Taylor discussed being grateful for employee longevity. Ms. Taylor reported staff appreciation, flexible scheduling, competitive wages, and support for ongoing professional goals is part of the program's operations.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the historic 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2019 pandemic.

Building and grounds are maintained. Center kitchen is well-organized and sanitary. Since the last review, vestibule enhancements occurred and several classrooms were re-arranged keeping learning at the forefront. Each classroom also received a new mini refrigerator/freezer unit. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork; toddler room "I love you berry much") and displays of program positivity (e.g. 3yo room "Be a Bucket Filler") 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, 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.

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 how center enrollment is full and how families have provided much positive feedback about the care provided. Ms. Taylor talked about possible future goals of offering a family movie-pizza night or parent's night out event.

Mother Goose Daycare & Preschool - Cedar Rapids collaborates well with community partners including local businesses, CCR&R, health professionals, and local school districts.

The infant room has a “no shoe” policy.

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). A noteworthy area of study in the combined-age preschool room was "germs" as evidence by a very engrossing staff/child discussion incorporating healthy habits. 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. 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:

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- One staff file (CM) reviewed lacked documentation of a current physical exam report with TB screening/testing.

109.11(7)c. To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, all centers shall, on an annual basis prior to the heating season, have a professional inspect all fuel-burning appliances, including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, and gas dryers, to ensure the appliances are in good working order with proper ventilation.
- Documentation of a current annual fuel inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit. Please obtain and forward results to licensing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Replace the 3yo room blinking light and continue to ensure the room's secondary exit is unobstructed.

Ensure microwaves are inaccessible to the children.

Continue to ensure diapering procedures are posted in all areas diapering occurs.

Please review child water bottles procedures with all staff (e.g. emptied each night, dishwashing procedures, refill each day with fresh water).

Please review procedures for helping children manage runny-noses with toddler room staff (e.g. hand washing, immediate tissue disposal).

Licensing observed a folding lawn chair to be positioned on an area of the toddler room carpet. Staff reported having the folding lawn chair for a medical reason. Staff shall provide a medical note documenting the continued need for access to a folding lawn chair during employment hours at the childcare.

Licensing observed the outdoor play area is in need of care (e.g. toddler fence latch, drainage). Ms. Taylor acknowledged having a yard/lawn service company to help with the maintenance and indicated she would be following up with them.

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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.