

Children learn in nurturing environment with Mother Goose

By Jessica Ercolino
Staff Writer

Mother Goose's nurturing environment and fun-filled days provide your child with a home away from home that you can trust.

The Lansdale-based center has provided full- and part-time care for infants to school-aged children for more than 40 years — the last five under owner and operator Lisa Kurek.

The school focuses on fostering the fun, love, warmth, security, exploration and discovery important to early childhood development.

"Young children are receptive to new information and search for an outlet for their creativity," said Kurek. "Our purpose is to provide your child with a home-away-from-home atmosphere, encouraging social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth and development of the child as a whole."

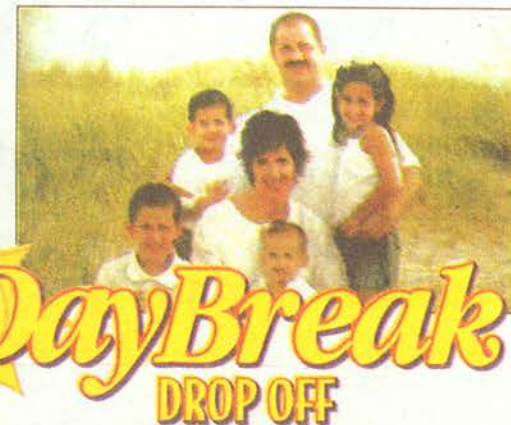
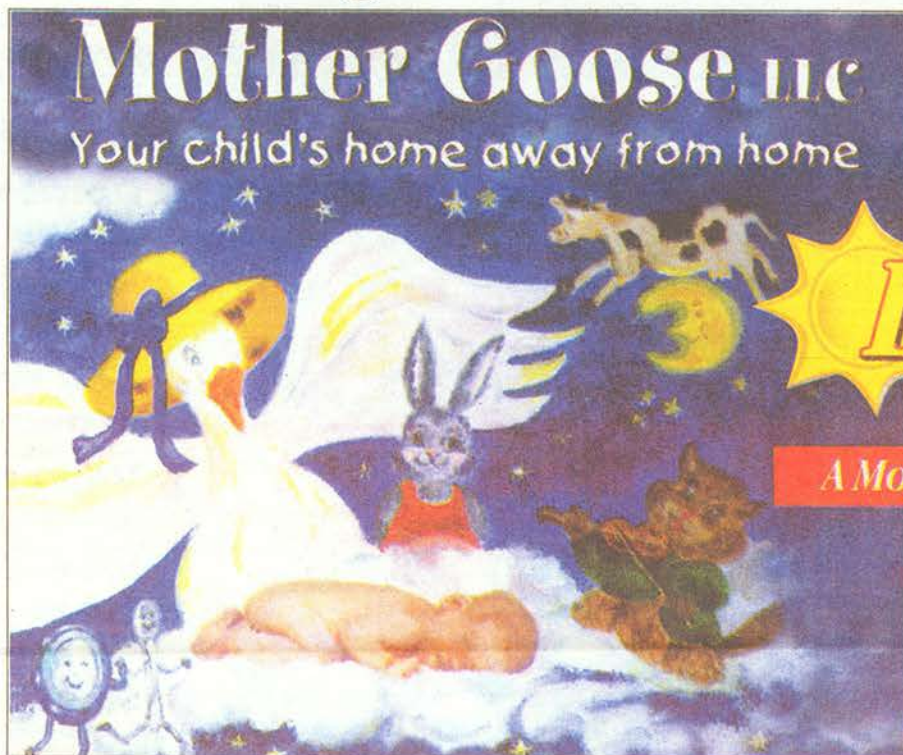
A former printing and direct-mail professional, Kurek opened her own in-home day-care center eight years ago after being laid off.

"It was a total career swap," she said, adding that after three years, she decided to take "the look and feel" of her services to an actual facility.

"Our programs have the mentality and environment of home, yet kids are capable and prepared to learn in the schools," she said.

As a mother of four, Kurek understands the needs of children and their parents: Nine months ago, she began offering "DayBreak Drop Off," which affords stay-at-home parents the opportunity to bring their child to the facility for hourly care (minimum two hours per day) by appointment.

"This is to help [the parents] out, whether they have a doctor's appointment, are getting their hair done, don't feel well, need to do holiday shopping or want alone time," said Kurek. "Most daycares want a commitment. You don't need to be enrolled here — just call



A Mom's needed break in her day

Mother Goose LLC's logo is pictured at left with a familiar cast of characters. DayBreak is the pre-school's new promotion, allowing parents to drop of their children during the day for a short period. At top is a portrait of Lisa Kurek (middle) and her family.

Images and photo
courtesy of Lisa Kurek

and we'll see if we have an open spot that day."

The service can be especially helpful to those feeling the crunch of a tough economy, the owner added.

"So many people are losing their jobs that they're going on interviews and need care, or maybe their hours are getting cut back and they don't need full-time daycare," she said. "There's no obligation with this. We're here when they need us."

The Mother Goose staff is comprised of 17 women — most of whom are mothers — all trained in CPR and first aid. Their care and commitment to the children is unparalleled, said Kurek.

"We strive each day to provide warmth, attention and encouragement to all children, as if they were our own," the school's mission statement explains. "We will do everything within our power to remove all your fears and worries and assure you that your most treas-

ured possession — your child — will be cared for in the most professional and loving way possible."

A member of both the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the school administers a strong, multifaceted curriculum taught by degreed teachers.

"The curriculum focuses on play and discovery — that's where learning occurs naturally," said Kurek.

Children learn and enjoy participating in music and language enrichment programs, as well as yoga and gymnastics for little ones to explore movement concepts in a safe and positive atmosphere. Children also spend time outside in Mother Goose's park-like playground with "the largest custom-built sandbox in the area," according to its Web site, www.mothergoosedaycare.org.

The school also teaches the basics of

Spanish language and culture, said the owner.

"Our goal is to introduce young children to Spanish in a fun and entertaining environment to help them get an early start on a bilingual future," said Kurek.

Throughout the summer, Mother Goose runs a camp program. Each week involves a different theme — science, "kids in the kitchen" — and special guests visit the center, including a clown for circus week and pony rides for zoo week, said Kurek.

Kurek and a local artist recently remodeled the center with custom designs. The entire facility holds a home-style décor with entertaining plays on common themes from room to room, e.g. angels, dreams, barnyard animals, etc.

"It's a nice combination — you feel the warmth inside the building, but the kids are learning at the same time," said the owner.

The infant room is "home-like [and] spacious" with separate eating, playing and nursery sleeping areas; soon, the center will include an entire wing for the infants, Kurek said.