



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 12/9/2020 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 1:00 PM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-35299

Apple Tree Prep

810 Olympic Drive Athens, GA 30601 Clarke County
 (706) 546-9446 debra@appletreeprep.com

Regional Consultant

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

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margarita.collier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/09/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
11/04/2019	POI Follow Up	Good Standing
11/04/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing

Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient.

Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.

Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.

Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	1L		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	1R	PreK	3	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	2L	Three Year Olds	2	15	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2R		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	3L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	3R		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	4L	Two Year Olds	2	16	C	19	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	5L		0	0	C	20	C	NA	NA	
Main	6L	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 177						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 71			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 177			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - Infant/Toddler	25	C
Main	Playground B - Preschool	48	C
Main	Playground C - Field	38	C

Comments

A virtual visit was completed on December 9, 2020. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).



Please refer to the website, <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx>, for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)



Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

Debra Pittman-Davis, Program Official

Date

Margarita Collier, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Met

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2019

Corrected on 12/9/2020

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The damaged slide has been blocked off to prevent children from accessing the slide. Per the director, the center is currently in the process of completing the required repairs to the slide. The director will follow-up with the owner to confirm if the center will have the cracks sealed with mold or remove the slide from the playground equipment.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2019

Corrected on 12/9/2020

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant did not observed the presence of holes throughout the resilient surface of the playground areas.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2019

Corrected on 12/9/2020

The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the playground areas to be clean and free of potential tripping hazards.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff stated the proper handwashing procedures for children and staff.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 01/11/2010

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 09/17/2020

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 09/01/2003

Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 07/08/2019	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 06/01/2003	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 11/04/2020	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 07/20/2003	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 06/13/2016	Met
Staff # 9 Date of Hire: 08/01/2011	Met
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 01/14/2019	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 08/01/2009	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 11/17/2020	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 06/09/2018	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 10/21/2019	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 03/12/2018	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 02/07/2011	Met
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 08/10/2018	Met
Staff # 18 Date of Hire: 01/13/2019	Met

Staff # 19

Met

Date of Hire: 09/01/2012

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 12

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed the following information regarding criminal record checks with the director:

- Monitor the expiration dates of all staff members' criminal record check letters.
- Submit a portability request via DECAL KOALA for newly hired staff members that have a previous satisfactory comprehensive criminal record check letter issued by the department.
- Ensure that all newly hired staff members have evidence of a satisfactory comprehensive criminal record check letter prior to providing services to children present for care.
- Ensure that all staff members currently on leave and/or seasonal staff members with a six-month break of employment from child care submit an updated criminal record check application and complete the fingerprinting process prior to rendering services for child care services (including independent contractors).

Comment

The consultant observed 19 of 19 staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

Comment

The director provided four files for staff members hired since the previous visit was conducted. The consultant observed four of four newly hired staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory comprehensive criminal record check letter.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

The previous citation was deferred due to four of four staff members currently within their 90-day time frame.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2019

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2019

Corrected on 12/9/2020

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed staff members to have completed the required 10 hours of annual training for the year 2019.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020. Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.