



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: 9/22/2020 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:30 AM

Departure: 10:30 AM

CCLC-39324

First Step Learning Academy, Inc.

750 Haskell Ward Drive Griffin, GA 30223 Spalding County
(678) 572-4440 Firststeplearningacademy@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
09/22/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/16/2020	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/08/2020	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	

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	A Main	Two Year Olds	1	2	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 2			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 18			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	55	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 22, 2020. All criminal record checks were reviewed on this date. A virtual inspection was conducted on September 28, 2020 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued August 15, 2020 was discussed with the Director during the virtual inspection.

A copy of the new infant feeding plan was emailed to the Director.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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://www.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

Christina Artis, Program Official

Date

Brandi Mangino, 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

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2020

Corrected on 9/22/2020

.12(2) -Citation observed to be corrected.

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

Met

Comment

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020

Facility

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/15/2020

Corrected on 9/22/2020

.25(11) - Citation observed to be corrected during the virtual walkthrough.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resilient. It was determined based on consultant observation that resilient surfacing under the red and blue metal structure was inadequate in that approximately one inch and less was observed in areas of the fall zone.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resilient.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2020**Recited on 9/22/2020**

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director during the virtual walk through.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding discipline were discussed with the Director on this date. The rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020

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)**Defer****Defer**

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This citation is deferred until the next regulatory visit when the rule correction can be observed in person.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 1/8/2020

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 03/05/2015	
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 07/10/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 06/01/2016	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Defer
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Defer

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This citation is deferred until the next regulatory visit as staff have until December 31, 2020 to complete annual training for the 2020 year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Previously Cited: The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2020

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Not Evaluated
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Comment

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed during the virtual walk through. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued August 15, 2020.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020

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

Met

Comment

A virtual visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

Correction Deadline: 9/1/2020