



**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

Cover Sheet

Date: 6/13/2022 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation by Phone **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

CCLC-1624

A Willow Path

1047 Fury's Ferry Road Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 868-6061 appletreeacademyii@att.net

Regional Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
06/13/2022	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing
02/02/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/10/2021	POI Follow Up	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

Comments

A virtual complaint investigation was conducted on June 13, 2022. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Investigative findings were not concluded on June 13, 2022. Investigative findings were concluded on June 14, 2022. The Consultant completed exit conference virtually and a copy of the visit report was electronically emailed to the Program on June 14, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/13/2022

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.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.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



Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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)

Tiffany Futo, Program Official

Date

Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



**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

Findings Report

Date: 6/13/2022 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation by Phone **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

CCLC-1624

A Willow Path

1047 Fury's Ferry Road Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 868-6061 appletreeacademyii@att.net

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455
Fax: (706) 434-7640
melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation by Phone:

Activities and Equipment

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.12(1)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure Staff are trained in and children are taught the proper use of all furniture, materials and equipment; will implement a plan for this information to be reviewed with both groups on an ongoing basis; and for monitoring proper and age-appropriate usage.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.12(2)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.08(1)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2022

	Facility
--	-----------------

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

Not Met

Defer

591-1-1-.25(13)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined, based on investigation, that for at least the past three months, center staff failed to keep the toilets, in the two-year-old classroom, clean and in good repair as one toilet was observed to be brown from not being cleaned properly cleaned and the other toilet was reported to have a leak.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.25(3)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 2/16/2022

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.26(4)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.26(6)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.26(9)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2022

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Defer**

Defer

591-1-1-.15(2)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.15(7)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2022

Health and Hygiene

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

Defer

591-1-1-.17(7)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

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

Defer

591-1-1-.20(1)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

Safety

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

Defer

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.36(4)(b)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 2/18/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2.- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 2/15/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Defer

Defer

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.30(2)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 35

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 10/14/2021	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 01/11/1999	
Staff # 7	Met

Staff # 8	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 01/05/2022	
Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 11/22/2021	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 09/20/2021	
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 08/05/2021	
Staff # 15	Met
Staff # 16	Met
Staff # 17	Met
Staff # 18	Met
Staff # 19	Met
Date of Hire: 01/03/2022	
Staff # 20	Met
Staff # 21	Met
Staff # 22	Met
Date of Hire: 03/15/1993	
Staff # 23	Met
Date of Hire: 07/18/2016	
Staff # 24	Met
Date of Hire: 07/23/2021	
Staff # 25	Met
Date of Hire: 10/11/2021	
Staff # 26	Met

Records Reviewed: 35

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 27	Met
Staff # 28	Met
Date of Hire: 10/08/2021	
Staff # 29	Met
Date of Hire: 09/20/2021	
Staff # 30	Met
Date of Hire: 11/04/2021	
Staff # 31	Met
Date of Hire: 07/31/2019	
Staff # 32	Met
Date of Hire: 11/29/2021	
Staff # 33	Met
Date of Hire: 11/27/2017	
Staff # 34	Met
Date of Hire: 03/07/2019	
Staff # 35	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 9

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR **Defer**

Defer

591-1-1-.14(2)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.14(3)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will provide any missing first aid kits, add any missing items to each first aid kit and will develop and use a plan for checking the kits and replacing missing items in each kit in the future. First aid kits and instruction manuals will be stored so that they kits are not accessible to children but are easily accessible to Center Staff.

Correction Deadline: 2/2/2022

Defer

591-1-1-.31(2)(a)- The citation was deferred and will be reevaluated at the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate a qualified lead staff for this group.

Correction Deadline: 3/4/2022