



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: 4/11/2017 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM
 Closure from visit on
 03/01/2017

CCLC-33761

Jeff Davis County Head Start

96 West Jefferson Street Hazlehurst, GA 31539 Jeff Davis County
 (912) 375-2258 kbennett@myactionpact.org

Regional Consultant

Kimberly Mitchell

Phone: (478) 314-2822
 Fax: (478) 314-6616
 April.Rogers@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Compliance Zone Designation		
04/11/2017	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
03/01/2017	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing
02/27/2017	Monitoring Visit	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.

Comments

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.

Reminder: All employees of child care programs must be fingerprinted before **January 1, 2017**. For instructions and to submit records check applications online, please visit www.decalkoala.com. You are encouraged not to wait and to complete the process as soon as possible.

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@decals.ga.gov.

- 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://decals.ga.gov/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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes, 290-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Kimberly Bennett, Program Official

Date

Kimberly Mitchell , Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Facility

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.25(19) prohibits the use of unapproved areas for children's activity. It was determined that on February 24, 2017, a group of three-year-old children were allowed to use a playground that was not licensed for center use. While using the playground a three-year-old child exited the playground through an open gate without staff knowledge.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will discontinue use of this area.

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2017

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined that on February 24, 2017, at approximately 9:18 a.m., a three-year-old child exited the center playground through an open gate. The child was missing for approximately twenty-five minutes before being located at a neighboring elementary school playground. The fence was not secured as required.

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: 4/11/2017

Staffing and Supervision

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times. Children were not supervised in that on February 24, 2017, at approximately 9:18 a.m., a three-year-old child exited the center playground through an open gate without staff knowledge. The child then walked approximately 0.12 miles to a neighboring elementary school playground. The child was found on the elementary school playground and law enforcement was contacted. Law enforcement responded and returned the child back to the center. The center staff members had no knowledge of the child exiting the playground. The child was missing for approximately forty minutes.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will provide training to staff and monitor to ensure that children are supervised at all times.

Correction Deadline: 4/11/2017