



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: 7/22/2019 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit POI Follow Up **Arrival:** 1:50 PM **Departure:** 6:20 PM

CCLC-30186

Blue River STEAM Academy

4391 Glenwood Road Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
 (404) 284-8909 obamadaycare@outlook.com

Regional Consultant

Laurel Benta

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 carrie.spangler@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

850 Shadow Lake Drive
 Lithonia, GA 30058

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
07/22/2019	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
05/30/2019	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Support	
05/30/2019	Complaint Closure	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	Room A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	Room B	Four Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	21	C	43	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	Room C-1R		0	0	C	44	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room D - 1L		0	0	C	6	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 28			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A-Back Area	54	C
Main	B-Side area 3-12yrs	38	C

Comments

Discussed with director and staff of transportation checklist requirements and procedures.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/22/2019

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.decal.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

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@decal.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://decal.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)



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.decal.ga.gov/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov

Stephanie Plummer, Program Official

Date

Laurel Benta, Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit POI Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on observation that current lesson plans were not posted in the Pre-k Classroom and Classroom A.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan a program that includes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are provided daily, train Staff to use various teaching methods, and monitor both.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

Recited on 7/22/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation center staff failed to provide proper lesson plans and the proper learning materials needed to effectively teach the children in the Pre-K Classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

Recited on 7/22/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12 - Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety in Room B.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 5****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 4**

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on review of records that four of five children files reviewed lacked release person's address, child's primary source of health care, parent's name and work address and number of child's parents.

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: 7/22/2019**Recited on 7/22/2019**

Correction Deadline: 5/30/2019

Corrected on 7/22/2019

.08(2) - The previous citation was corrected.

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)

Not Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Finding

591-1-1-.25(12) requires heating and cooling equipment to be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the portable AC unit was accessible to children in Classroom A.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will re-position or re-install equipment, as needed, and will make all such equipment inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

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 observation that roaches were observed in the 1st right classroom.

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: 7/22/2019

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Discussed routine fence maintenance.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that a deflated bouncy house and an electrical blower were accessible to children near the toddler playground. It was further determined that yellow chipped paint was accessible to children on the ground and walls on the side area playground.

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: 7/22/2019

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on observation the diaper changing surface in Classroom A was cracked and porous which prevented the surface from being properly disinfected.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

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

Staff stated proper handwashing procedures.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.37 Inspections & Investigations**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.37(e) requires the Center shall not make or condone any Staff to make a false or misleading statement to the Department in connection with any authorized investigation or inspection being conducted by the Department. It was determined based on investigative findings that the director stated that transportation was not being provided; however, staff and child interviews revealed that field trips are provided. It was further determined that misleading statements were given when the director and a staff member stated there was only one field trip provided; however, based on children interviews and consultant's observation two field trips have been provided on July 3, 2019 and July 17, 2019 and misleading statements were given when the director stated that she was the parent/guardian of a child that she sign permission for to attend a field trip.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

the Director stated that she though transportation and filed trips were separated and non related. The consultant inform the director that field trips fall under transportation. The consultant provided TA to the director and staff member or how fill out transportation checklists. The Center will not make, or condone Staff to make false or misleading statements to the Department.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Ensure that field trip forms are signed by parents prior to taking children on field trips.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on review of records that load and unload times were not accounted for during field trip from the center to Exchange Park on July 3, 2019.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on review of records that arrival and departure times were not documented for a field trip to AMC North Dekalb 16 on July 17, 2019. It was further determined that arrival and departure times were not documented on a field trip to Exchange Park on July 3, 2019.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that each time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2019

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: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/01/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) - Discussed obtaining fingerprints for consistent volunteers.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

Corrected on 7/22/2019

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was corrected. The employee is no longer employed.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on review of records that the most recently issued determination letter was not ported for the owner. The owner was present on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that one staff member was responsible for seven four-year-olds and 14 school-aged children in the Prek Classroom. A ratio of 2:21 was required. It was further determined that a ratio of 1:7 was observed when one staff member was responsible for three infants and four one-year-olds in Classroom A. A ratio of 2:7 was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide adequate staff when there is a mixed-age group.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(7) - Discussed proper supervision in the classroom with children who like to run out of the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2019