



**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:** 10/29/2018 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 3:35 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

**CCLC-36655**

**Rising S.T.A.R.S. Learning Center**

2006 Lumpkin Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County  
 (706) 798-8100 risingstars00@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**  
 2006 Lumpkin Rd.  
 Augusta, GA 30906

**Regional Consultant**

Keshia Hayward

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carrie.spangler@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Melyn Smith

**Quality Rated:**

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
10/29/2018	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
07/23/2018	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
06/25/2018	POI Follow Up	Deficient	

**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 - Right	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap, Transitioning	
Main	B - Middle	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Free Play	
Main	C - Left	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:					47	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:					0
Total # Children this Date: 22			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			47	Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:				0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Only one	24	C

**Comments**

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/29/2018

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](mailto: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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

Alicia Waltower, Program Official

Date

Keshia Hayward, Consultant

Date

Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 10/29/2018 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 3:35 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment****591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined, based on observation, that vinyl furniture was observed to have tears with foam exposed in the Left and Right Classrooms, which prevented the furniture from being easily cleaned.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.12(3) - Please ensure chairs are not stacked in classrooms when children are present.

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018****Finding**

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on consultants observation that the flat screen television on the wooden shelf in the left classroom was not secured.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018****591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the dust pan, vacuum and broom were accessible to children beside the cabinet with the television in the left classroom and in the corner next to the bathroom in the back classroom. It was further determined that a tape dispenser with sharp edges was sitting on top of the cubbies and an extension cord was hanging from the wall in the back classroom.

**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: 10/29/2018****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(17) - Please ensure the vine plants that has grown through the fence does not pose a hazard to children and are trimmed.

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018****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 the tank cover in the back classroom bathroom was cracked, a hole one and one half inches wide and two inches long was in the wall beside the table in the left classroom and a hole one and one half inches in diameter was in the back right side of the building next to the door on this date.

**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: 10/29/2018****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that electrical outlets, not in use, did not have protective caps in classrooms throughout the center.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018**

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(14) - Please ensure all classrooms have enough light to ensure that staff can continue to properly observe and supervise children and to evacuate the center in case of an emergency.

**Correction Deadline: 11/28/2018**

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

**Finding**

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 based on observation that the gate leading to the air conditioner unit was open. Broken toys and garden tools were accessible to children on this date, inside the gate.

**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: 10/29/2018**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(7) requires that climbing and swinging equipment be anchored. It was determined, based on observation, that the purple U. S. Air Force airplane was observed to not be securely anchored to prevent tipping on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will remove or repair equipment that is not anchored and will regularly inspect the equipment to ensure it remains anchored.

**Correction Deadline: 11/8/2018**

## 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 consultants observation that the diaper changing pad located in the bathroom in the back classroom was torn under the bottom and on the side.

**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: 10/29/2018**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined, based on observation, that the driver's seat was observed torn with foam exposed on the van used for routine transportation.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

**Correction Deadline: 10/30/2018****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined, based on observation, that a second check of the vehicle was not observed to be conducted immediately after the first check at the conclusion of afternoon routine transportation on this date. A second check of the vehicle was observed approximately three to five minutes later.

**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: 10/29/2018**

<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that sheets were not available for cots in the left and right classrooms. Staff stated the laundry had not been brought over for the week.

**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: 10/29/2018**

<b>Staff Records</b>
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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined, based on review of records, that a student-in-training hired in January 2018 had not submitted a Records Check Application to the Department nor Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

**Correction Deadline: 10/30/2018**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined, based on review of records, that a Student-in-Training, hired in January 2018, was did not have a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter on file prior to being present at the center, as required on this date. A one-day letter was left on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required.

**Correction Deadline: 10/30/2018**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(11) requires the Center to have qualified and sufficient direct-care, clerical, housekeeping, maintenance and other employees to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of children. It was determined, based on observation, that the center did not have sufficient staff present at the facility to allow for the daily operation of the center without compromising children’s care on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that an adequate number of qualified employees is available to ensure full compliance with these rules without neglecting the supervision of the children.

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(9)(b) requires the Center to ensure that no Student-in-Training shall be solely responsible for children other than their own and must be under continuous direct supervision of a Director or Employee with a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination while in the presence of children in care other than their own. It was determined, based on observation, that a Student-in-Training was observed to be solely responsible for retrieving and escorting a school-age child from the school bus to the Center without direct supervision of a director or employee on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that all Students-In-Training are not solely responsible for children other than their own, and are under continuous direct supervision of a Director or Employee with a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination while in the presence of children in care other than their own.

**Correction Deadline: 10/29/2018**

**Staffing and Supervision**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.