



**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: 2/24/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 3:10 PM **Departure:** 5:45 PM

CCLC-11080

First Steps At Elberton

1638 Washington Highway Elberton, GA 30635 Elbert County
(706) 283-4820 tony_mills@att.net

Regional Consultant

Kelly Jones

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kelly.jones@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/24/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
08/28/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/27/2020	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.

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-1L	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	15	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B-1R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	9	C	6	NC	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	C-2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers, Free Play
Main	D-back	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Art

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 39

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	115	C

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on February 24, 2021, 2020 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An Administrative The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021 and was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/24/2021

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://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

Michelle Mills, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, 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**

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Comment

Swimming activities provided off site.

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) **Met**

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Comment

The outside area appears clean and well maintained. Consultant discussed monitoring the playground and fence surrounding the playground area for normal wear and tear (i.e. exposed roots, active ant beds, resilient surface levels, entrapment hazards, etc.) with the director on this date.

Food Service

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019

Corrected on 2/24/2021

.15(2)(a) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication. Provider provided written statement.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through on this date. Staff stated knowledge of appropriate discipline procedures. Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

Met

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1 Date of Hire: 10/01/2003	Met
Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 07/22/2020	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 06/19/2020 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing	Not Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 06/11/2019 <u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u> .31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing	Not Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 08/29/2019	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 04/28/2004	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 01/31/2020	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 01/01/2005	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5

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

Comment

Eight of Eight Criminal record checks were observed to be complete August 28, 2020.

Comment

Director provided 1 file(s) for employees hired since last visit August 28, 2020.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Met**

Correction Deadline: 9/27/2020

Corrected on 2/24/2021

.33(4) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. A review of records indicated that the director had evidence of the required four hours of nutrition training on file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/27/2020

Corrected on 2/24/2021

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. A review of records indicated that that staff member # 3 hire date June 19, 2019 had evidence of the required annual training for the year 2020 on file on this date..

Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during the virtual walk through on this date. The program is in compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 3 hired on June 19, 2019 and staff # 4 hired on June 11, 2019 did not have evidence of acceptable lead teacher qualifications on file on this date. Staff member #3 and Staff member #4 obtained the assessment results for a paraprofessional certification, however they do not have evidence of a certificate on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2021

Recited on 2/24/2021

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019

Corrected on 2/24/2021

.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I) - (VIII) - The previous citation has been corrected on this date. Staff member is an assistant teacher.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Adequate supervision observed on this date.