



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: 4/5/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:10 AM

CCLC-1623

Appletree Academy #1

501 The Pass Martinez, GA 30907 Columbia County
 (706) 868-6060 bjhj136315@aol.com

Mailing Address
 Same

Regional Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

Fax: (706) 434-7640

melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Rebekah Mullinax

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
04/05/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/05/2021	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
09/01/2020	Licensing Study	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	1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	1st Right	Two Year Olds	2	13	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Story
Main	2nd Left	Infants	2	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	2nd Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	31	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	3rd Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	12	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	3rd Right	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	8	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4th Left	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 153			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 74			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Back Playground	69	C
Main	PG- Left Playground	20	C
Main	PG- Right	53	C

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on April 5, 2021 with the Assistant Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on March 12, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/05/2021

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/RuleAndRegulations.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

Jan Hughes, Program Official	Date
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Rebekah Mullinax, Consultant	Date
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Melyn Smith, Consultant	Date
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Findings Report

Date: 4/5/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:10 AM

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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. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute, especially under the swings and climbing equipment.

Food Service

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(2) - Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used and is completely filled out. The consultant discussed the revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child.

Correction Deadline: 4/5/2021

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined, based on review of records, that the Center was lacking an infant feeding plan for one enrolled infant on this date.

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: 4/5/2021

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2021

Corrected on 4/5/2021

.15(2)(a) - Previous citation corrected, based on observation and staff statement, in that center personnel was observed to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their on bottles or sit alone on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/5/2021

Corrected on 4/5/2021

.15(3) - Previous citation corrected, based on observation, in that the baby bottles and formula were observed to be labeled with the individual child's name on this date.

Comment

591-1-1-.15(7) - The consultant discussed with the Assistant Director the new revision to restricted food rule which states: Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

Correction Deadline: 4/5/2021

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Assistant Director on this date. The Assistant Director stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Hand washing requirements were discussed with the Assistant Director on this date. Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Assistant Director on this date. The Assistant Director stated that positive redirection and discussion were used.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Technical Assistance****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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - The consultant discussed with the Assistant Director to ensure that the peeling tape observed on the seats of the vehicles used for routine transportation was replaced.

Correction Deadline: 4/6/2021

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 30****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 04/15/2019

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 10/13/2020

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 09/24/2020

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 02/15/2021

Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 10/07/2020	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 03/15/1993	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 10/07/2002	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 08/26/2020	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 05/28/2008	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 01/18/2021	
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 08/24/2020	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 01/21/2020	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2001	
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 09/04/2018	
Staff # 15	Met
Date of Hire: 02/08/2021	
Staff # 16	Met
Date of Hire: 11/27/2017	
Staff # 17	Met
Date of Hire: 10/31/1994	
Staff # 18	Met
Date of Hire: 10/31/1994	
Staff # 19	Met
Date of Hire: 03/29/2021	

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Records Reviewed: 30**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 20	Met
Date of Hire: 02/25/2019	
Staff # 21	Met
Date of Hire: 03/01/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 22	Met
Date of Hire: 03/22/2017	
Staff # 23	Met
Date of Hire: 07/22/2019	
Staff # 24	Met
Date of Hire: 03/11/2019	
Staff # 25	Met
Date of Hire: 08/06/2001	
Staff # 26	Met
Date of Hire: 06/24/2019	
Staff # 27	Met
Date of Hire: 09/01/2020	
Staff # 28	Met
Date of Hire: 03/28/2016	
Staff # 29	Met
Date of Hire: 08/23/1996	
Staff # 30	Met
Date of Hire: 07/25/2005	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 12**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** **Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on March 12, 2021.

Staffing and Supervision

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date during the virtual walk through. The consultant discussed the new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.