



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: 3/30/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

CCLC-1625

Appletree Academy III

460 Fury's Ferry Road Martinez, GA 30907 Columbia County
 (706) 650-2003 erlenegraham@msn.com

Regional Consultant

Melyn Smith

Phone: (706) 855-3455

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melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

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.
03/30/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/28/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/05/2019	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 (Pre-K 1)	PreK	2	10	C	19	C	26	C	Outside
Main	1st Right (TN)	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	2nd Left (Pre-k 2)	PreK	2	9	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	2nd Right (NN)	Infants	1	3	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	3rd Left (Afterschool)		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	3rd Right (T2)	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	28	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	4th Left (T3)	Three Year Olds	1	15	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4th Right (T1)	One Year Olds	2	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	5th Left (AS)		0	0	C	25	C	34	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 166						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 182				
Total # Children this Date: 60			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 166			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 182				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG- Left Side	71	C
Main	PG- Middle Playground	47	C
Main	PG- Right Front Playground	20	C
Main	PG- Right Playground	55	C

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on March 30, 2021 with the 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: No Plan Developed

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

Erlene Graham, Program Official

Date

Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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Arrival: 10:00 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-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please ensure the bolts at the bottom of the toilets connecting the toilets to the floor are covered with the protective caps, as some protective caps were observed missing during the virtual walk through on this date.

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

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.15(2) - The Center was observed to use the new updated infant feeding form during the virtual walk through on this date. The consultant discussed with the Director 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: 3/30/2021**Comment**

591-1-1-.15(7) - The consultant discussed with the 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: 3/30/2021

Health and Hygiene

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

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

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

Hand washing requirements were discussed with the Director on this date.

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**

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 Director on this date. The Director stated that positive redirection was used.

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.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 17****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 07/29/2015	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 12/12/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 05/25/2014	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 10/10/2000	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 08/15/2012	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 09/22/1996	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 09/01/2002	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 06/22/2020	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 10/12/2012	
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 12/12/2018	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 08/14/2018	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 03/10/2021	
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 10/01/2015	

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

Records Reviewed: 17**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 15 Met
Date of Hire: 01/15/2019

Staff # 16 Met
Date of Hire: 03/09/2021 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 17 Met
Date of Hire: 02/05/2007

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 16**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.

Correction Deadline: 10/28/2020**Corrected on 3/30/2021**

.31(2)(b)2. - Previous citation corrected, based on review of records and director statement, that staff identified as lead teachers met minimum academic requirements or were enrolled and working towards meeting the minimum academic requirements on this date. Three staff identified as lead teachers were enrolled in a program of study to obtain a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and planned to complete the program of study and obtain the CDA credential by April 23, 2022.

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 with the Director 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.