



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: 3/15/2021 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 4:30 PM **Departure:** 7:45 PM

CCLC-2636

Oma's Learning Center and Daycare

1345 West Hill Ave. Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
 (229) 247-2313 omaslearningctr@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Beth Houtz

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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.
03/15/2021	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
12/14/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/14/2019	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
bld2-rm H	Pre-K/ school age	Six Year Olds and Over and PreK	1	24	C	40	C	56	C	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 168							
Main	Cafeteria	Two Year Olds	1	12	C	16	C	23	C	Centers
Main	Room A -2 1/2 yrs (right side of Bldg.)		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B - 3 yrs (right side Bldg.)		0	0	C	30	C	42	C	
Main	Room C - 1 yrs (left side of building)	One Year Olds	1	6	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap
Main	Room D - Infants (left side of Bldg.)	Infants	1	4	C	12	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Diapering
Main	Room E - 18 mth - 2 yrs (left side bldg)	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Diapering
Main	Room F - 2 year olds (left side of building)		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room G - 1 yrs (left side end of hallway)		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 128			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 168							
Total # Children this Date: 50			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 168							
			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 168							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	playground	67	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit is a complaint investigation and a monitoring visit. during the visit any previous citations were followed up on. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021 was observed.

New nutrition and supervision rules were discussed.

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.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

Jazmine Newsome, Program Official

Date

Beth Houtz, 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)

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 in classroom A there were twelve blue chairs that had rusted legs and were missing the protective ring on the feet of the chairs.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children. The center will start replacing the chairs five at a time until all the chairs have been replaced.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/14/2020

Corrected on 3/15/2021

.08(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The sign-in and sign-out sheets were documented with names and times as required.

Facility

Finding

591-1-1-.06(7) requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. It was determined based on observation that in classroom G the toilet was stopped up with feces and had been left that way long enough to allow the feces to dry on the rim of the toilet resulting in a smell in the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to ensure that bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and that this is monitored daily.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

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****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 following items were accessible to children in care.

-In classroom A there was a walkie-talkie with 3 exposed double A batteries in a toy bin.

-In classroom A on a table there was hand sanitizer, adult scissors, and a stapler.

-In the Pre-K classroom the cabinet under the sink was not secured and the following hazards were accessible: Fabuloso, Pine Sol, Hand Sanitizer, and Palmolive

-In the Pre-K classroom by the door there was hand sanitizer on a shelf.

-In the Pre-K classroom on the teacher's desk the following items were accessible: stapler, adult scissors, and hand sanitizer.

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. The center will ensure all cabinet that house cleaners have a lock on them.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

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 in the boy's bathroom of classroom B there was no light fixture cover leaving two light bulbs exposed.

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: 3/15/2021

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 in classroom A there were two uncovered outlets, in classroom E there was 1 outlet not covered, in classroom F there were six outlets, including the ones on a power strip, not covered, and in classroom G there were three outlets not covered in a power strip.

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: 3/15/2021

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**

Discussed 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.

Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed 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.

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 that in classroom F the changing table was not cleaned after a child was diapered.

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: 3/15/2021

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that in classroom E staff did not assist an two-year-old child with washing their hands after diapering. The consultant had to remind the staff member to have the child wash their hands.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required hand washing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on observation that in classroom E a staff member did not properly wash their hands for the required time period and following the outlined steps for proper hand washing after diapering a child.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for hand washing, train Staff on the hand washing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor hand washing.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.11(1) requires that disciplinary actions used to correct a child's behavior, guidance techniques and any activities in which the children participate or observe at the Center shall not be detrimental to the physical or mental health of any child. It was determined based on observation and discussion with the teacher that a one-year-old child was confined to a high chair because they were hitting other children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will cease use of this disciplinary method; the director will provide staff training on appropriate child guidance techniques and have a system in place to monitor and identify/prevent inappropriate actions. During the visit the consultant discussed with the teacher about not confining children in high chairs as punishment. Redirection and time out at a table were given as alternatives.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

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

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - The consultant observed on the vehicle with tag PB1255 tape to be pulling away from the seats where it had been placed to cover tears in the vinyl seats. The consultant discussed with the provider about reapplying the tape until the seats could be permanently repaired.

Correction Deadline: 3/16/2021

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 a review of records that on March 15, 2021 on the transportation sheet for the Sallas Mahone/Dewar Elem. A.M. and P.M. route sheets there was no second signature documented on the sheet immediately after completion of the first check as required.

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: 3/15/2021

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2020

Corrected on 3/15/2021

.36(8) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. Based off of transportation records no children were transported on a vehicle longer than 45 minutes.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child; and that mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined based on a review of records that 15 rest mats in classroom B had frayed edges with the inner foam exposed preventing the mats from being waterproof and cleanable as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate the size and weight of the child and mats are in good repair, washable, covered with a waterproof material and is at least two inches thick.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the nap cots stored in classroom E were stacked in a way that the feet of the cots rested on the sheets and resting area of the cot below them. The cots were not stacked and stored in a manner that prevented the bedding from not touching anything else.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 19

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 02/16/2021

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 07/18/2019

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2002

Staff # 4 Met

Records Reviewed: 19**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Date of Hire: 02/15/2021

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 02/02/2021

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 03/01/2021

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

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 02/01/2021

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 02/07/2017

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 03/12/2026

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

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 01/29/2021

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 06/05/2019

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 07/08/2019

Staff # 13

Met

Date of Hire: 08/11/2016

Staff # 14

Met

Date of Hire: 05/16/2002

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 02/25/2021

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

Staff # 16

Met

Date of Hire: 02/21/2021

Staff # 17

Met

Date of Hire: 04/11/2019

Staff # 18

Met

Date of Hire: 03/04/2021

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

Staff # 19

Met

Date of Hire: 10/07/2020

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided [] file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Defer****Correction Deadline: 1/4/2021****Corrected on 3/15/2021****.33(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The employee has obtained Health and Safety training.****Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation is deferred until the next regulatory visit when the annual training for the 2020 calendar year will be reviewed. Training for the 2019 calendar year was reviewed on December 14, 2020.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 1/13/2021**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that there were eight classrooms in use and only four lead teachers with the required credentials to qualify as lead teachers.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2021**Recited on 3/15/2021****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)**Not Met****Comment**

Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during meal times and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation that a child was sent from the cafeteria area to the restroom without supervision. There was only one staff member in the classroom and the staff member could not physical supervise the child in the restroom and the children in the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021