



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: 3/10/2020 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation
Closure from visit on
03/03/2020

Arrival: 11:00 AM

Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-33726

The Highlander School

1212 McPherson Ave. Atlanta, GA 30316 DeKalb County
(404) 221-2420 rukiamoniquero@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Monique Chambers

Phone: (770) 357-7006

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monique.chambers@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
03/10/2020	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
03/03/2020	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	
02/26/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Comments

March 3, 2020: The investigation remains open pending additional information. Once completed, the investigation findings will be reviewed with the person in charge and a final copy of the report will be emailed to the center.

March 10, 2020: The investigation was closed on this date and there was one rule violation found associated. A copy of the report was sent to the center.

April 15, 2020: The investigation was revised on this date and there were two additional violations found associated. A copy of the report was sent to the center.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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.

- 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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.

Rukia Rogers, Program Official

Date

Monique Chambers , Consultant

Date



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Incident Investigation Closure:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.03(9) requires center staff to refrain from engaging in, or allowing children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined during an investigation that on February 7, 2020, staff failed to physically intervene and remove a child from sitting on top of a low storage shelf. The child climbed on the shelf and staff were aware that the child was sitting on top of the shelf. The staff observed the child to be sitting on top of the shelf laughing and rocking back and forth. The staff verbally redirected the child and as one staff member attempted to intervene and remove the child from the shelf, the second staff member in the room advised the responded staff member to allow the child to remain on the shelf and to see if the child could get down independently. The staff allowed the child to continue sitting on the shelf and did not intervene to stop the child as they rocked back and forth laughing. Investigative findings indicated that the children frequently climb on the shelf and staff will often allow the children to attempt to climb off the equipment independently. The child eventually began to try to get down from the shelf. As the child attempted to climb down, they fell and hit their face on a metal bowl located on the floor at the base of the table. As a result of the fall the child sustained a gash near the eye. Professional medical treatment was required.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2020

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.12(1) requires each Employee and child in attendance to use all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. All equipment and furniture shall be used only by the age-appropriate group of children. It was determined during an investigation, that on February 7, 2020, indoor furniture was not used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions when a one-year-old child fell while attempting to climb down after sitting on it. The manufacturer advertised the furniture as a shelving unit or sideboard. Professional medical treatment was required. It was further determined, based on investigative findings that the staff frequently allowed the children to climb on and off the equipment.

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Correction Deadline: 4/15/2020

Staffing and Supervision

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times and that the persons supervising in the child care area be alert, able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the chaperones and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. It was determined during an investigation that on February 7, 2020, adequate oversight was not provided when one staff member incorrectly assumed that a one-year-old child could get down from a shelving unit on their own. Staff failed to physically intervene and assist the child. As a result, the child fell and hit their head on a metal mixing bowl nearby and sustained a deep gash near the eye, that required professional medical treatment.

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Correction Deadline: 4/15/2020