



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: 4/7/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 10:00 AM

CCLC-36694

1st Step Learning Academy L.L.C

3217 New MacLand Road Suite 120 & 130 Powder Springs, GA 30127
 Cobb County
 (678) 401-2379 1ststeplearningacademy1@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Brionne Higgins
 Phone: (404) 232-1903
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 brionne.higgins@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.
04/07/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/29/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/23/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

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
Building 2	One room	Six Year Olds and Over	1	8	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	B- 2nd Right	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C-1st Left	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D- 2nd Left	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Rm. A-1st Right	Infants	1	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 33			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 68			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground-Back of Center	29	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to follow-up to a visit conducted on Septemeber 29, 2021. The administrative review was due on April 14, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/07/2022

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



Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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)

Kai Kyser, Program Official

Date

Brionne Higgins, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

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

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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) **N/A**

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Met**

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices **Met**

Comment

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Consultant discussed monitoring vehicle seats for rips and tears and repairing them as needed with the Director.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2022**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. - Consultant discussed ensuring that a mark is written on the transportation form when children are absent during transportation routes with the Director.

Correction Deadline: 4/8/2022

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 02/15/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 01/27/2020	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 11/16/2020	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 03/29/2016	
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Date of Hire: 04/05/2022

Staff # 8 Met

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 08/12/2019

Staff # 10 Met

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.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Met

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021

Corrected on 4/7/2022

.33(5) - Previous citation corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff to complete annual training as required.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) Not Met

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 the Center did not have lead teachers that met the minimum academic requirements.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2022

Recited on 4/7/2022

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.