



**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: 1/9/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:35 AM **Departure:** 11:20 AM

CCLC-38845

Ahava Early Learning Center

600 Peachtree Battle Avenue Atlanta, GA 30327 Fulton County
(404) 900-9411 beth@ahavalearning.org

Regional Consultant

Emma Smith

Phone: (770) 357-5106

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emma.smith@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
01/09/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/17/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/18/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

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	A	Infants	2	7	C	17	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Floor Play
Main	B	Infants	1	1	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C	One Year Olds	2	6	C	21	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Free Play, Floor Play
Main	D		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	16	C	21	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0		Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request		
Total # Children this Date: 38			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	115	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study and follow up to the previous visit on July 17, 2019.

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/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@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

Beth Helmey, Program Official

Date

Emma Smith, 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.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

Met

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

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure that the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards. Please ensure leaves are raked, and pinecones and sticks are removed.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2020

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure Center staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2020

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

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 on this date with last fire drill conducted on December 18, 2019 and last tornado drill conducted on July 31, 2019.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

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

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2018	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2017	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 09/01/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 01/01/2019	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 12/01/2019	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2016	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 07/01/2015	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2017	
Staff # 9	Met

Records Reviewed: 15**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Date of Hire: 06/01/2019

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 09/01/2017

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2016

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/19/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied

Staff # 13

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/11/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2019

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Director provided 6 files for employees hired since last visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that staff member #22 that was hired on May 2019, did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. The consultant left a one day letter, read the consultant script, and left a A to Z video affidavit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the video units to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2020

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that staff member #22 that was hired on May 2019, did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center. The consultant left a one day letter, read the consultant script, and left a A to Z video affidavit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will watch the video units to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2020

Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on review of records that substitute staff #21 and #23 did not have most recently issued determination letters electronically ported.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the video units to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2020

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

Met

Comment

Please be mindful of training expiration dates.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.