



**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:** 8/5/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 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.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
08/05/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/19/2021	Incident Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
05/10/2021	Incident Investigation Closure	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	A	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	5	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering, Clean Up
Main	B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Transitioning, Clean Up
Main	C	Infants and One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside
Main	D	Infants	2	4	C	21	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play
Main	E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning, Art
Main	F	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	11	C	21	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request

Total # Children this Date: 40

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 100

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	115	C

### Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on August 5, 2021 with the Provider. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consultant left a one-day letter and CBC Video Affidavit with the director on this date.

Consultant discussed and provided flyer regarding the CCLC Virtual Core Rules Refresher Sessions, OLLI Beyond th Rules and Active Supervision trainings, and GA PDS information flyer on this date.

Consultant discussed that as of August 2, 2021, amendments will need to be submitted via DECAL Koala and also discussed COVID-19 reporting.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/05/2021

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.al.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.

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#### 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.al.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.al.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://dec.al.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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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Beth Helmey, Program Official

Date

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Emma Smith, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 8/5/2021      **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit      **Arrival:** 9:30 AM      **Departure:** 11:00 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.

**591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**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)****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 during a virtual walk through of the program that disinfectant wipes were in classroom A located at the sink, a spray bottle of soapy water was in classroom E located on a low shelf, and a steam mop was located in classroom E by the diaper changing area accessible to children on this date.

**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.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(8) - The consultant discussed with the director taping the electrical outlet cord in classroom F to the wall to ensure it is not within children's reach.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021**

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**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26 - Discussed daily maintenance of resilient surface around the doors leading into the building to ensure there is no cement edges exposed.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - Please ensure the water hose located on the playground is securely wrapped up and does not pose as a potential tripping hazard.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021**

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**Food Service**

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**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on review of records that classroom D did have updated feeding forms with instructions for the introduction of solid foods on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021**

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

Changing table requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

**Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Organization**

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**591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.16(f) - Discussed submitting an application for an amendment for Room D with the Director on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021**

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**Policies and Procedures**

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**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.21(3) - Consultant observed and discussed the emergency preparedness plan with the director on this date.

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**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.11 - 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 and staff on this date.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**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.

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 21****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

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Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 08/01/2017	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 12/01/2019	

Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 08/01/2016	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 07/01/2015	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 08/01/2017	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 08/09/2021	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 9	Met
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 05/19/2021	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 09/01/2017	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 07/19/2021	Not Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied	
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 02/24/2021	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 07/19/2021	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 05/01/2016	Met
Staff # 18	Met
Staff # 19 Date of Hire: 03/17/2021	Met
Staff # 20	Met

**Records Reviewed: 21**

Date of Hire: 07/30/2021

Staff # 21

Date of Hire: 06/14/2021

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Met

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Director provided eight 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 a review of records that staff member #14, that was hired July 19, 2021, did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. The consultant observed staff member #14 in classroom B cleaning, and supervised by another staff member on this date. There were six toddlers in the classroom on this date. The consultant left a one day letter and A to Z Background Check video affidavit on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will follow up in DECAL Koala to 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 continue to check on all old and new staff criminal record checks to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021****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 a review of records that staff member #14, that was hired July 19, 2021, did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center. The consultant observed staff member #14 in classroom B cleaning, and supervised by another staff member on this date. There were six toddlers present on this date. The consultant left a one day letter and A to Z Background Check video affidavit on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will follow up in DECAL Koala 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. 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 continue to follow up on all staff's criminal record check letters to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2021**



**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on review of records of new hires, staff member #19, that was hired March 17, 2021, did not complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. Consultant observed that staff member #19 completed the training August 5, 2021.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

**Correction Deadline: 9/4/2021**

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**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 5/19/2021****Corrected on 8/5/2021**

.32(7) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The consultant observed the staff provide adequate supervision and watchful oversight to the children on this date.