



**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: 3/24/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

CCLC-38863

Pea-N-A Pod Learning Center

1115 Brown Avenue Columbus, GA 31906 Muscogee County
(706) 984-0842 berthanewsome@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

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penny.svenson@decals.ga.gov

Mailing Address

1115 Brown Ave
Columbus, GA 31906

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.
03/24/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/29/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/21/2019	POI Follow Up	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	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	13	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	B		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	One Year Olds	1	2	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	E		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 76						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 6			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 76			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	73	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on April 14, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on March 24, 2021, with the staff person in charge. An in-person visit was not conducted due to Covid-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021, was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/24/2021

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.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

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://www.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

Bertha Smith, Program Official

Date

Penny Svenson, 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. A virtual visit was conducted due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

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, as additional cleaning items, sprays, disinfectants, may be used in an effort to prevent COVID-19, and should be placed out of reach of children.

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

Comment

Playground not observed on this date due to lack of support for the bandwidth during the virtual visit that was conducted due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director the 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 and 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.

Correction Deadline: 3/24/2021

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

Comment

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

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

Comment

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection were observed during the virtual visit that was conducted due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

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**

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: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 03/29/2021	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 02/26/2016	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 07/09/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 10/15/2019	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 01/11/2021	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 04/07/2014	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**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.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on staff statements that none of the staff had the annual ten (10) clock hours of on going training as required.

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. Training for 2021 will be evaluated on the licensing study conducted in 2022. Staff are expected to complete 10 hours of on going training as stated in the above rule.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2021

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

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios. A virtual visit was conducted due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date. A virtual visit was conducted due to COVID-19 Pandemic.