



**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:** 1/27/2020    **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:05 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-46967**

**Happy Explorer's Learning Academy**

2123 Avalon Road Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County  
(706) 507-4689 bernicerush.db@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
01/27/2020	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/27/2020	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
09/05/2019	LS POI Follow Up	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	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers, Feeding, Floor Play
Main	A-1	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	3	C	13	C	NA	NA	Art, Free Play
Main	B		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	D		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	E		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	F	Two Year Olds	2	14	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 37						Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96				
						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	10	C
Main	Playground B	170	C

**Comments**

The Consultant reviewed and discussed the Compliance and Determination Worksheet on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/27/2020

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.

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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.state.ga.us](mailto: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.

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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.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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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Bernice Rush, Program Official

Date

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Penny Svenson, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 1/27/2020 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:05 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed the rules for disinfecting and sanitizing equipment and toys.

**Correction Deadline: 1/27/2020**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Children's Records**

**Records Reviewed: 3**

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

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019**

**Corrected on 1/27/2020**

The correction was observed on this date.

**Facility**

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**591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)****Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on Consultant observation that the flooring was not tight, smooth or cleanable in several areas of the center.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2020****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that there were three stained ceiling tiles and one broken ceiling tile that was present in the hall that led to Playground B.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

**Correction Deadline: 2/3/2020****Recited on 1/27/2020**

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

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020****The correction was observed on this date.**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020****The correction was observed on this date.**

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

<b>Safety</b>
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**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection were observed on this date.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/15/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020**

The correction was observed on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/6/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020**

The correction was observed on this date. The center purchased a new vehicle.

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<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
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**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020**

The correction was observed on this date.

<b>Staff Records</b>
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**Records Reviewed: 7****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 10/03/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 04/18/2017	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2019	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 02/22/2019	

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1**

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020****The correction was observed on this date.****Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020****The correction was observed on this date.****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 a review of records that a staff member employed on September 2, 2019, had a Comprehensive Determination that was completed for another Center on January 30, 2019 and didn't have a lapse of employment from the child care industry, wasn't electronically ported by the Center as required.

**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 ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 1/27/2020**

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**591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1)(a) requires, in a Center that provides transportation, that either the driver or another Staff person present on the vehicle have current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. It was determined based on a review of records that a van driver didn't have current first aid and CPR as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will verify proof of CPR/1st aid training and schedule Staff so that there is always a staff person on the vehicle with this training.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2020****Recited on 1/27/2020**

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**591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records****Met****Correction Deadline: 9/10/2019****Corrected on 1/27/2020****The correction was observed on this date.**

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**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 10/5/2019**

**Corrected on 1/27/2020**

**The correction was observed on this date.**

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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**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.