



**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: 4/25/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:30 AM **Departure:** 12:00 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

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penny.svenson@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. 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.
04/25/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/07/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/29/2018	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	Infants	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Nap
Main	A-1	One Year Olds	1	3	C	13	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	B		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	C		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Main	D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	E	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transitioning
Main	F	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	16	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			96			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date:			41			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 04/25/2019

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

Bernice Rush, 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-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(1) requires the Center to provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy growth. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. It was determined based on observation that current lesson plans were not posted in each classroom as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan a program that includes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that are provided daily, train Staff to use various teaching methods, and monitor both.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2019

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

Corrected on 4/25/2019

The correction was observed on this date. The TV cart was no longer present in the classroom.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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****Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018****Corrected on 4/25/2019****The correction was observed on this date.****Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018****Corrected on 4/25/2019****The correction was observed on this date. All outlets that were in reach of children were covered as required.**

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that these hazards were present on the playground:

Playground A

Active ant beds on the back left side of the playground

Playground B

Active ant bed on the left middle and the left back corner, next to the fence

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2019**Recited on 4/25/2019**

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://decals.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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) **Met**

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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 redirection were observed 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) **Technical Assistance**

Correction Deadline: 11/8/2018

Corrected on 4/25/2019

The corrections were observed on this date.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

Corrected on 4/25/2019

The correction was observed on this date. There were fire extinguishers present on each vehicle.

Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed with the Program Administrator the rules for child restraints and clarified there should be a working seatbelt for the capacity of the vehicle. There was one vehicle not present on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2019

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 04/14/2017

Records Reviewed: 7

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 2 Date of Hire: 02/22/2019	Met
Staff # 3 Date of Hire: 03/04/2011	Met
Staff # 4 Date of Hire: 04/03/2017	Met
Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 04/28/2013	Met
Staff # 6 Date of Hire: 05/01/2013	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 02/22/2019	Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 7

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

Corrected on 4/25/2019

The correction was observed on this date. New staff members were ported as required.

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 **Met**

Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.