



**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: 7/22/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 10:00 AM

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@decals.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.
07/22/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/27/2020	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/27/2020	Complaint 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	Infants	1	1	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	A-1	One Year Olds	1	1	C	13	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	C	Six Year Olds and Over	1	5	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	E		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			96			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 17			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

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

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on July 22, 2020. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on July 21, 2020 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to Covid-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on May 12, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

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

Bernice Rush, Program Official

Date

Penny Svenson, Consultant

Date



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

Findings Report

Date: 7/22/2020 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:00 AM **Departure:** 10:00 AM

CCLC-46967

Happy Explorer's Learning Academy

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

Mailing Address
Same

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson
Phone: (470) 346-1037
Fax: (678) 891-5613
penny.svenson@decal.ga.gov

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 the 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: 3

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

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

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure that the application for children included the addresses for the person(s) a child could be released to as required.

Correction Deadline: 7/22/2020

Facility

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be met by the center on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2020

Corrected on 7/22/2020

The floors were observed to be updated from the previous visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/3/2020

Corrected on 7/22/2020

The Consultant discussed with the Director and Owner to ensure if a cover came off of the fluorescent bulbs to remove the bulbs until the cover could be replaced in order to prevent the bulbs from being broken and shattering on to children and staff.

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

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute as needed. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Food Service

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

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director 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

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 10/03/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 04/18/2017	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 06/23/2017	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 03/27/2017	
Staff # 7	Met

Records Reviewed: 10

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Date of Hire: 03/27/2019

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 03/27/2017

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 02/22/2019

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 06/29/2019

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 0

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 1/27/2020

Corrected on 7/22/2020

The correction was observed on this date. All staff were observed to have a valid Criminal Background Check as required.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2020

Corrected on 7/22/2020

The correction was observed. The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure First Aid & CPR obtained by staff is received from a licensed health care professional or trainer and covered emergency care to infants and children and on-line only classes are not accepted as a form of training.

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. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date. A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.