



**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: 1/12/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 10:15 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@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.
01/12/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/22/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/27/2020	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	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		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	A-1	One Year Olds	1	5	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		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	E	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 17			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

A virtual inspection was conducted on January 12, 2021, with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to Covid-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on June 16, 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.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.

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.

- 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.

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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov

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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

The Consultant discussed with the Director to turn over the sand that was used as resilient surface so that it was not packed down.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures during the Virtual Visit that was conducted due to 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.

Safety

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-.36 Transportation(CR) **Met**

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation at this time due to virtual learning county wide. The center was not participating in virtual learning.

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: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

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

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Date of Hire: 03/27/2017

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 03/27/2019

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 03/27/2017

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 02/22/2019

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 0

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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 on this date. 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.