



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: 11/7/2018 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:25 AM **Departure:** 1:45 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

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Mailing Address
 Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
11/07/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
05/29/2018	POI Follow Up	Good Standing
04/24/2018	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	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Main	A-1	One Year Olds	1	4	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	14	C	14	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	E		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	F	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 96						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 29			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 determination and compliance worksheet on this date.
 The consultant left a one-day letter on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/07/2018

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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based on observation that there was a TV cart present in room E and the two front tires were deflated which posed a fall hazard for children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the identified equipment or furniture and any other such existing or future items are secured adequately and will have a system for checking these for stability.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

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

Met

Comment

The center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by the center on this date.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that a storage cabinet in room D did not have a lock present and a teacher's purse was stored and was accessible to children. Further, in room F there was baby powder present in a backpack and posed a hazard to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that an outlet cover was missing in room D and E.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to check outlets and replace protective caps when needed and identify and monitor how outlets in use are inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

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

-broken toys:blue car was broken, lion car had hole with sharp edges, bouncy horse was dry rotted and not attached to the base

-left side of the fence had a wooden extension present that was no longer secured and 3 nails were exposed and the second panel had a loose pole at the bottom and the cap wasn't present and sharp edges were exposed

Playground B

-the orange temporary barrier was no longer secured to the sharp fence posts

-2 active ant beds present: 1 was next to the sidewalk and one was near merry go round which children had access to because temporary barrier was no longer attached to the sharp poles which posed a hazard to children

-the merry go round had rust present and did not have a continuous rotating surface and was broken

--broken trash can with organic waste present

-there were weeds and tree limbs on the back portion of the playground that had been blocked off with the temporary fence that was no longer secured and had sharp poles exposed which posed a hazard to children

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: 11/7/2018

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

All staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense or administer medication.

Safety

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

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the van that ended in license plate 9980 had multiple hazards:

- unsecured fire extinguisher
- can of Raid in the front passenger seat
- rips and exposed foam on driver's seat, the passenger seat, and the front bench seat
- vehicle roof upholstery was loose and no longer adhered to the interior of the vehicle

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will maintain that all transportation vehicles are clean, in safe repair, and free from hazards.

Correction Deadline: 11/8/2018**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that fire extinguishers were not present on the vehicles with license plates that ended in 9978 and 9979.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment was observed on this date.

Staff Records

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

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 04/14/2017

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 07/16/2018

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 03/04/2011

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 04/28/2013

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2013

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 03/27/2017

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6

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

Not Met

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 four staff members had Comprehensive Records Check Determinations but the center had not ported them by the portability deadline.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2018

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

The consultant 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 was observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision was observed on this date.