



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

Cover Sheet

Date: 10/21/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:45 AM

Departure: 1:15 PM

CCLC-54273

Stepping Stones Academy

8780 Macon Hwy Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
 (706) 613-2793 robin@steppingstonesathens.com

Regional Consultant

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
10/21/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/08/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/24/2021	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	

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	Room A-Infants	Infants	1	6	C	11	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play
Main	Room B- One Year Olds	One Year Olds	1	4	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	Room D-Three year olds	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	10	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Snack
Main	Room-C Two Year Olds	Three Year Olds	2	7	C	23	C	NA	NA	Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 74					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 27			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 74			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	9	C
Main	Playground B	16	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit and to follow-up on the previous visit conducted on March 8, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/21/2022

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



Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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)

Robin Seagraves, Program Official

Date

Margarita Collier, 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: 10/21/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:45 AM

Departure: 1:15 PM

CCLC-54273

Stepping Stones Academy

8780 Macon Hwy Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
(706) 613-2793 robin@steppingstonesathens.com

Regional Consultant

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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)

Technical Assistance

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Technical Assistance

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Not Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the blue slide and green slide attached to the red, green, blue, and orange sliding structure had no resilient surface surrounding the fall zones located on the front-right side of playground B.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2022

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

Staff members stated the proper handwashing procedures for children and staff.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Technical Assistance

Please document N/A or none if no adverse reaction is observed.

Safety

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Evaluated**

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

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: 20

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met
Date of Hire: 05/09/2022

Staff # 2 Met
Date of Hire: 06/15/2022

Staff # 3 Met

Records Reviewed: 20**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Date of Hire: 09/07/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 08/29/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 09/06/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 01/25/2022

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 08/24/2021

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 08/15/2022

Staff # 10

Met

Date of Hire: 06/06/2022

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 01/24/2022

Staff # 12

Met

Date of Hire: 09/02/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 13

Met

Date of Hire: 06/13/2022

Staff # 14

Met

Staff # 15

Met

Date of Hire: 04/13/2022

Staff # 16

Met

Date of Hire: 08/24/2021

Staff # 17

Met

Date of Hire: 04/04/2022

Records Reviewed: 20

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 18

Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2021

Staff # 19

Met

Date of Hire: 08/20/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 20

Met

Date of Hire: 12/28/2021

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 6

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

Met

Comment

The director provided 13 files for staff members hired since the previous visit was completed on March 8, 2022. The consultant observed 13 of 13 newly hired staff members to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2022

Corrected on 10/21/2022

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed all staff members to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2022

Corrected on 10/21/2022

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed all staff members to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

Correction Deadline: 3/9/2022

Corrected on 10/21/2022

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant observed all staff members to have evidence of a current satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that staff members complete the required first aid and CPR training within the first 90-days of their date of hire. Please remember that online CPR training does not meet the requirements.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

Correction Deadline: 4/7/2022

Corrected on 10/21/2022

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The previously cited director is no longer employed with the center. However, the consultant observed the current director have evidence of a current health and safety orientation certificate on file.

Technical Assistance

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.