



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: 7/17/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:15 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-54273

Stepping Stones Academy

8780 Macon Hwy Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
 CCLC-54273 robin@steppingstonesathens.com

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 07/17/2023 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 10/21/2022 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 03/08/2022 | Monitoring Visit | 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 | Commons - 3's/4's | | 0 | 0 | C | 22 | C | NA | NA | Not In Use |
| Main | Infant-A-Younger Infants | Infants | 2 | 5 | C | 10 | C | NA | NA | Nap,Floor Play,Feeding |
| Main | Room B-Infants | Infants and One Year Olds | 2 | 6 | C | 8 | C | NA | NA | Lunch |
| Main | Room C - One Year Olds | One Year Olds | 2 | 6 | C | 12 | C | NA | NA | Diapering,Lunch |
| Main | Room E-Three year olds | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1 | 11 | C | 16 | C | NA | NA | Lunch |
| Main | Room-D Two Year Olds | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds | 2 | 12 | C | 16 | C | NA | NA | Lunch |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75 | | | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks | | | |
| Total # Children this Date: 40 | | | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 75 | | | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 | | | | |

| Building | Playground | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main | Playground A | 14 | C |
| Main | Playground B | 16 | C |
| Main | Playground C | 16 | C |

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit and to follow-up on the previous visit conducted on October 21, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/17/2023

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the user id 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)



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.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Robin Seagraves, Program Official

Date

Margarita Collier, CCS Coordinator

Date



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(Findings Report)

Date: 7/17/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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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 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

Technical Assistance

Please ensure to store all potentially hazardous items and/or materials inaccessible to the children (i.e., diapering wipes, sunscreen, cleaning products, etc.) in a locked cabinet or a high enough shelf that the tallest child cannot reach.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Please ensure to monitor the playground area for the following:

- Normal wear and tear of playground equipment.
- Normal wear and tear of the playground fence.
- Exposed tree roots and/or rocks.
- Biting and/or stinging insects.
- Loose and/or weak tree branches.
- Low hanging tree branches.

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 approximately one inch of resilient surface surrounding the fall zones located on the front-right side of playground C. Approximately six-inches of resilient surface was required.

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: 7/31/2023

Recited on 7/17/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

Finding

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on review of records the center did not have written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense "Auvi-q" to a child with known food allergies. The consultant did not observe the center to administer the medication during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2023

Finding

591-1-1-.20(2) requires that written authorization to dispense medication is limited to two weeks unless otherwise prescribed by a physician or authorized under Georgia law. Medication shall only be dispensed out of its original container which must be labeled with the child's name or as authorized under Georgia law. It was determined based on review of records that a bottle of "Auvi-q" was not stored in its original container labeled with the child's first and last name.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train all Staff on the medication requirements. The designated person(s) will monitor the dispensing of medications.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2023

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**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

The director provided six files for staff members hired since the previous visit was conducted on October 21, 2022. The consultant observed six of six newly hired staff members to have evidence of a satisfactory comprehensive determination letter on file.

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.