



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: 6/17/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:35 PM **Departure:** 5:05 PM

CCLC-30916

Georgia Kids Academy

4336 Hwy. 53 Hoschton, GA 30548 Jackson County
(706) 654-5437 Lawanda@georgiakidsacademy.org

Regional Consultant

Lynn Schnitzer

Phone: (678) 717-5720

Fax: (770) 344-5683

lynn.schnitzer@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

PO Box 568
Hoschton, GA 30548

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.
06/17/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
05/16/2024	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
04/22/2024	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	1R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	8	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	2R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	3R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	4R	Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	19	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	D 1L		0	0	C	21	C	NA	NA	
Main	E 2L	Five Year Olds	1	7	C	21	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 48			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG Back	20	C
Main	PG Front	34	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study and to follow up from the previous visit conducted on August 21, 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!



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: 6/17/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:35 PM Departure: 5:05 PM

CCLC-30916
Georgia Kids Academy
4336 Hwy. 53 Hoschton, GA 30548 Jackson County
(706) 654-5437 Lawanda@georgiakidsacademy.org

Regional Consultant
Lynn Schnitzer
Phone: (678) 717-5720
Fax: (770) 344-5683
lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
PO Box 568
Hoschton, GA 30548

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the center obtains addresses for release persons.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2023

Corrected on 6/17/2024

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed potential hazards stored out of reach of children.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that there were protruding bolts and nail heads in the railroad ties on the right side of PG Back.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2024

Food Service

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/16/2024

Corrected on 6/17/2024

.15(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Director stated that allergy information is posted in the kitchen and in each classroom. Director further stated that she checks the ingredients of food purchased for the center and puts foods containing allergens on the do not serve list for the allergic child.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2023

Corrected on 6/17/2024

.17(7) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed hand washing throughout the center.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2023

Corrected on 6/17/2024

.17(8) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed hand washing throughout the center.

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**

Met

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals**

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on review of records that staff #9 date of hire February 6, 2023, and staff #15, date of hire June 13, 2023, and staff 18, date of hire June 3, 2024, did not have evidence of two (2) hours of state-approved transportation training on file. Staff #9 and staff #15 attended a field trip to Stars and Strikes on June 4, 2024. Staff #18 attended a field trip to Hoschton Park on June 7, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2024

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 first bench seat had a hole with exposed foam on vehicle tag #BYJ1128. Further, there was an unsecured broom stored on vehicle tag #PB7976.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 6/21/2024

Recited on 6/17/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

Center does not serve infants.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that four of eight children did not have sheets on their mats in classroom 1R, one of eight children did not have a sheet on their mat in classroom 2R, and eight of ten children did not have a sheet on their mat in classroom 3R.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

Correction Deadline: 6/17/2024

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided eleven files for employees hired since last visit August 21, 2023.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff hired more than 90 days to be certified in First Aid and CPR.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(3) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the center first aid kit has protective eye wear.

Correction Deadline: 6/27/2024

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Consultant observed staff hired more than ninety days to have completed Health and Safety Orientation training.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.33(5) - Consultant discussed annual training requirements with the director.

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2024

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.