



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: 9/13/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:35 AM

Departure: 12:30 PM

CCLC-46538

Bemiss Academy Preschool

5111 Bemiss Road Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County
 (229) 474-4004 bemissacademy@hotmail.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2274
 Valdosta, GA 31604

Regional Consultant

Beth Houtz

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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.
09/13/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/23/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/29/2021	Licensing Study	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
Building 2	Room E - 3 year old room		0	0	C	15	C	20	C	
Building 2	Room F - GA Pre-K	PreK	2	19	C	28	C	40	C	Transitioning, Centers
Building 2	Room G - school age		0	0	C	19	C	27	C	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 62			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 129							
Main	A- 6wks - 2 yrs	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Feeding
Main	B- 2 year olds	One Year Olds	2	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C- Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	22	C	31	C	Circle Time
Main	D - 3's & 4's	Two Year Olds	2	6	C	16	C	22	C	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 129							
Total # Children this Date: 49			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 129			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 129				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	All Ages	64	C

Comments

An in-person visit was conducted on this date. All background checks were reviewed during the visit. The center does transport children but does not dispense any medication.

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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)

Jennifer Laster, Program Official

Date

Beth Houtz, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 9/13/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

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)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met
Child # 6	Met

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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)**Met****Correction Deadline: 3/25/2022****Corrected on 9/13/2022****.25(11) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The center has replaced the flooring in the school age classroom.****Correction Deadline: 2/23/2022****Corrected on 9/13/2022****.25(13) - This citation was observed you be corrected on this date. No hazards were observed.****591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Program observed to have complete emergency drills.

Safety

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

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

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Comment

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

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2022

Corrected on 9/13/2022

.36(7)(c)2. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2022

Corrected on 9/13/2022

.30(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No objects were observed in any of the cribs.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 23**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 08/18/2022

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

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 05/02/2022

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2020

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 06/01/2022

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 01/11/2022

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2021

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2014

Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 01/01/2014	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 01/01/2014	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 05/02/2012	
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 07/13/2021	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 03/24/2022	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 10/12/2020	
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 02/28/2022	
Staff # 15	Met
Staff # 16	Met
Staff # 17	Met
Date of Hire: 04/26/2022	
Staff # 18	Met
Date of Hire: 04/01/2022	
Staff # 19	Met
Date of Hire: 01/07/2020	
Staff # 20	Met
Date of Hire: 07/26/2021	
Staff # 21	Met
Date of Hire: 02/14/2022	
Staff # 22	Met
Date of Hire: 06/27/2022	
Staff # 23	Met
Date of Hire: 08/30/2021	

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

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 9

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided six file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Met
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Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

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