



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: 1/31/2023 **VisitType:** Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-46538

Bemiss Academy Preschool

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

Regional Consultant

Beth Houtz

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Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2274
 Valdosta, GA 31604

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.
01/31/2023	Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/31/2023	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
09/13/2022	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	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	15	C	20	C	Transitioning, Nap, Lunch
Building 2	Room F - GA Pre-K	GA PreK	2	18	C	28	C	40	C	Transitioning, Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 43			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 169							
Main	A- 6wks - 2 yrs	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Nap
Main	B- 2 year olds	One Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	C- Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	22	C	31	C	Story
Main	D - 3's & 4's	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	22	C	Lunch, Nap, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 169							
Total # Children this Date: 58			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 110			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 169				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	All Ages	64	C

Main	School Age Playground	56	C
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Comments

A monitoring visit was conducted on this date. The center does provide transportation 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

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)



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!

Jennifer Laster, Program Official

Date

Beth Houtz, 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)

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.

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

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - The consultant observed a new fence around the basketball court area that had fence bolts that needed to be cut down. The director stated that the bolts would be cut down.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2023

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - The consultant observed the sand to be washed away at the corner of the sand box patio on the toddler playground leaving a high ledge from the top of the patio. The consultant discussed with the director about adding more sand to shorten the height of the ledge.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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.

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

Comment

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 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.