



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: 3/22/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Follow Up **Arrival:** 10:20 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

CCLC-3329

The Preschool Academy

2800 Atlanta Highway Athens, GA 30606 Clarke County
(706) 353-8183 the.preschool.acad@gmail.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			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.
03/22/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
03/08/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
02/29/2024	Complaint Investigation & 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
Main	1R	Infants	2	7	C	25	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play, Nap
Main	2R	One Year Olds	1	7	C	24	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Story
Main	3R Back		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	3R front	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	32	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4R Back	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4R Front	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	35	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	5R left side	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	11	C	23	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Story, Transitioning
Main	5R right side		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 52

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - A	44	C
Main	Playground - B	152	C
Main	Playground - C	8	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation and to follow up on the previous visit conducted on February 29, 2024. The consultant was unable to leave an official copy of the visit report with the director during the visit due to the consultant experiencing technical difficulties. A final copy of the visit report was emailed to the provider.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 04/08/2024

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!

Catherine Corey, Program Official

Date

Margarita Collier, CCS Coordinator

Date



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Follow Up:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed monitoring toys and equipment for normal wear and tear (i.e., cracked storage containers, torn reading books, etc.).

Facility

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Defer

Defer

The previous citation was deferred until March 29, 2024, due to the center expected to have all repairs completed by the approved due date. The consultant observed the toilet screws cut down on the sides of the toilets. Further, the consultant did not observe any dead or live roaches throughout the center and in the kitchen area during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 3/8/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the top side of the fence located on the back middle side of playground B was not connected to the fence pole. Further observation determined that the back top middle side of the fence pole and the fence wiring was not connected to the fence pole located on playground B. The gaps measured between one foot and two inches to two inches and nine inches.

Correction Deadline: 3/29/2024

Recited on 3/22/2024

Defer

The previous citation was deferred due to the center being given a correction deadline of March 24, 2024 to repaint the chipped paint on the two white riding horses on the back-right side of playground A. The swing chains were observed to be clean and in good repair.

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2024

Correction Deadline: 3/10/2024

Corrected on 3/22/2024

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The previously cited sliding structures were removed from playground C. Per the director, the sliding structures will not be returned to playground C until new resilient surface is installed to ensure that each sliding structure has the adequate amount of resilience.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following hazardous items were observed on the playground areas:

- Playground A - Pine cones and leaves were observed throughout the grounds on the back side of the playground area.
 - Playground B - Pine cones, leaves, and grass were observed throughout the grounds on the back side of the playground area. A protruding green stick was observed on the back left side of the playground measuring approximately two feet and four inches in height.
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Correction Deadline: 3/29/2024

Recited on 3/22/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/29/2024

Corrected on 3/22/2024

The previous citation was observed to be corrected. The consultant did not observe any dead and/or live roaches throughout the kitchen area.

Staff Records

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Defer

Defer

The previous citation was deferred until the center's next regulatory visit. Staff files will be reviewed to ensure staff members are completing the required 10-clock hours of annual training for the year 2024.

Correction Deadline: 3/30/2024