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: 9/4/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 1:45 PM **Departure:** 5:45 PM

CCLC-1457
Childcare Network #12
424 Connell Rd. Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County
(229) 316-0391 cni12@childcarenetwork.com

Regional Consultant
Rena Keene
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
06/10/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
05/31/2024	Complaint Investigation & 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	Main:Pre-K (room A)		0	0	C	22	C	NA	NA	
Main	Pre-K (room B)	Four Year Olds	2	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Story,Transitioning
Main	Rm A-L ft	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Diapering,Nap
Main	Rm B-L middle	Two Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Main	Rm C-L back	One Year Olds	1	5	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitioning
Main	Rm D-Center Bk	Infants	1	4	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 38		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 105			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	102	C
Main	Playground B	15	C
Main	Playground C	24	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekony)**	**5 years and older**
4	5	10	8	11	7	21

Comments
The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/04/2024

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.decal.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 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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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(Findings Report)

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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: 3**

Child # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing,.08(3)-Name of Release Person Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-No Record

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child’s name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child’s primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child’s participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of children's records that one child was present at the center who did not have an enrollment record. Two of the five remaining children's records reviewed did not include addresses for the persons to whom each child could be released and one child's record did not list any emergency contact information.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2024

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.

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

Comment
Center appears clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

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 Consultant's observation that a metal platform on the playground used by children who are two to three years of age poses a hazard to the children. The metal rotating cylinder was formerly the rotating mechanism for a circular mock tricycle track. The riding components have now been removed. The remaining piece of equipment rotates and poses a pinching hazard and the metal bolts and areas where the components were attached protrude and could cause injury to children on the playground. The equipment is inoperable and should be removed unless the components are replaced.

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: 9/14/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.15(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child, that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diets. It was determined based on Consultant's observation and staff statements that the snack served during the visit did not meet USDA requirements as two required components were not served. The snack served was crackers and water. Serving water is acceptable, but cannot count as a required nutritious component.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
Center Staff will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2024

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-.27 Posted Notices **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.27 requires each Center to post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: the Center's current License or Permit; a copy of these rules; a copy of the current communicable disease chart; a statement allowing Parent(s) access to all child care areas upon notifying any staff member of his or her presence; names of persons responsible for the administration of the Center in the administrator's absence; the dated current week's menu for meals and snacks; emergency plans for severe weather, fire, and other emergency situations; a statement requiring visitors to check in with Staff when entering the Center; no smoking signs; and a notice provided by the Department which advises Parents of their right to review a copy of the Center's most recent licensure evaluation report upon request to the Center Director. The Center shall provide any Parent with a copy of this evaluation report upon request. Discussed adding a statement indicating staff in charge in director's absence.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2024

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment
Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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

Comment
Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of transportation records for the current week that five of twenty-eight children collectively transported from W.G. Nunn Elementary School, Sallas Mahone Elementary School, S.L. Mason Elementary School, Dewer Elementary School. and Westside Elementary School, to the center on September 4, 2028, did not have all required emergency medical information on the vehicle while they were transported. Additionally none of the forms for the twenty-eight children transported on September 4, 2028, included the medical facility that the center uses.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle and ensure that the forms include all required information..

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. Consultant observed that staff were not correctly documenting and carrying out the required process for first checks. The driver had been signing to indicate that all children were loaded when they were boarded at the schools, rather than when they returned to the center and unloaded the vehicle. It was observed that the director walked on when the children were unloaded and placed her signature for the second check rather than the first. Consultant explained that the person performing the first check should physically check the vehicle only when children were unloaded at the center or other destination. The driver was observed to have been the one actually making the second check, but that was indicated not be signing the form, but by placing the company's placard in the window showing two check marks. The correct process was reviewed with director and staff responsible for transporting children.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. Consultant observed that staff were not correctly documenting and carrying out the required process for the second checks. The driver had been signing to indicate that all children were loaded when they were boarded at the schools, rather than when they returned to the center and unloaded the vehicle. It was observed that the director walked on when the children were unloaded and placed her signature for the second check rather than the first. Consultant explained that the person performing the second check should physically check the vehicle only when children were unloaded at the center or other destination and the first check had been completed. The driver was observed to have been the one actually making the second check, but that was indicated not be signing the form, but by placing the company's placard in the window showing two check marks. The correct process was reviewed with director and staff responsible for transporting children.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2024

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.

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 four (4) files for employees hired since last visit.

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

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

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding
591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of staff records and staff statements that four of the five classrooms in use did not have a lead teacher who possessed one of the required credentials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2024

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.