



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: 2/23/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:00 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.
02/23/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
09/29/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/21/2021	Monitoring Visit	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	GA PreK	2	20	C	28	C	40	C	Outside
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	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap,Floor Play,Feeding
Main	B- 2 year olds	One Year Olds	1	3	C	15	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C- Private Pre-K	Three Year Olds	2	16	C	22	C	31	C	Outside
Main	D - 3's & 4's	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	16	C	22	C	Nap,Transitionin g,Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 129							
Total # Children this Date: 56			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 walkthrough of the facility was conducted on February 23, 2022. A letter requesting documents be uploaded by March 2, 2022, for the monitoring visit review was left with the director after the walkthrough. The center does provide transportation. Background checks for all staff were reviewed during the walk through visit. The annual review was completed on March 7, 2022 and a copy of the report was emailed to the provider on this day.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/23/2022

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 New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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: 2/23/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

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Departure: 1:00 PM

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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.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2021

Corrected on 2/23/2022

.08(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The children's records reviewed had all the required information.

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)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on observation that the flooring in the school age classroom was not tight and smooth as required. The floor had ripples causing it to bunch up and pose a tripping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary. The program has contacted someone to take out the old flooring and install new flooring in the school age room. The consultant discussed with the program about going ahead and removing the flooring as soon as possible so it is not a hazard.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2022**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that in the three-year-old classroom there was a cabinet that was not locked making the content of the cabinet accessible to children in care. The cabinet contained a purse, Great Value All Purpose Cleaner, Clorox Wipes, and Microban all labeled keep out of reach of children. Additionally, in the Pre-K classroom there was a stapler, white out and lotion labeled keep out of reach of children on the teacher's desk and accessible to children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2022

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

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.

The consultant observed a new fence around the infant play area on the playground. The fence had several bolts that were longer than two threads in length. The consultant discussed with the program about cutting the bolts down to the required two threads of length.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2022

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff state 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2021

Corrected on 2/23/2022

.36(7)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All records reviewed had the required information.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2021

Corrected on 2/23/2022

.36(7)(b) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All records reviewed had the required information.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center.

It was determined based on a review of records that on the Home Transportation forms for the following days, February 21-25, 2022, and February 28, 2022 - March March 1, 2022, there was no mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason as required by this rule.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 3/3/2022

Recited on 2/23/2022

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2021

Corrected on 2/23/2022

.36(7)(c)3. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The departure and arrival times were observed on the transportation paperwork.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2021

Corrected on 2/23/2022

.36(7)(d)1. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The first check signature was observed on the transportation paperwork.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2021

Corrected on 2/23/2022

.36(7)(d)2. - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The second check signature was observed on the transportation paperwork.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2) requires the Center to provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants. Center Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back in a crib unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred position and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant. Swaddling shall not be used unless the Center has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Center Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant, such as, but not limited to, crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that there was an infant asleep in a crib with a stuffed animal attached to their pacifier.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will take all steps necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for infants as listed in these rules; will train Staff to follow these rules; and will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 2/23/2022

Staff Records	
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Records Reviewed: 20

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 05/12/2020

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 10/22/2021

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 01/11/2022

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

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2021

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2014

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2014

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2014

Records Reviewed: 20**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 8	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 07/13/2021	
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 04/26/2021	
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 10/12/2020	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 02/28/2022	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 13	Met
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 07/22/2021	
Staff # 15	Met
Staff # 16	Met
Staff # 17	Met
Date of Hire: 01/07/2020	
Staff # 18	Met
Date of Hire: 07/26/2021	
Staff # 19	Met
Date of Hire: 02/14/2022	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 20	Met
Date of Hire: 08/30/2021	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 9**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 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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**

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