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: 9/11/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 4:30 PM

CCLC-22839
Oconee Preschool Academy, Inc II
1420 Greensboro Hwy Watkinsville, GA 30677 Oconee County
(706) 769-2273 april@oconeepreschool.com

Lead Consultant
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/11/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
05/20/2024	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing
05/13/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	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	A: Right Hall 1R	Infants	1	3	C	17	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Feeding
Main	B: Right Hall 2R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	20	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	C: Right Hall 3R Back		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	D: Right Hall 3R Front		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	E: Right Hall 2L	One Year Olds	1	6	C	25	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Story
Main	F: Right Hall 1L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside,Diapering
Main	G: Middle	GA PreK	4	20	C	39	C	NA	NA	Outside,Centers
Main	H: Left Hall 1R	GA PreK	2	19	C	24	C	NA	NA	Outside,Centers
Main	I: Left Hall 2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	9	C	25	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	J: Left Hall 1R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	13	C	22	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 195			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Heath Department Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 86		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 195			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	88	C
Main	Playground B	151	C
Main	Playground C	108	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekony)**	**5 years and older**
9	6	15	13	46	4	34

Comments
The purpose of the visit is to conduct a Licensing Study Visit.

Reminders: Refer to the published communicable disease chart for guidance regarding communicable diseases. In most scenarios, only outbreaks/clusters should be reported to the local health districts.

Please be sure to contact the Oconee County Department of Health, if there are any outbreaks/clusters of positive COVID-19 cases immediately and get their guidance. Please be sure to also complete a Required Report in DECAL KOALA for all individual cases of communicable diseases within 24 hours. Be sure to select “Notifiable Communicable Diseases” to report closures for COVID cases.

You must be sure to enter all temporary closures by 8 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, holidays etc…) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one day or more. Please be sure to SAVE the report prior to exiting.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director within a 24 hour period of an incident occurring at the center, if medical attention was needed, injuries, child left unsupervised, suspected Child Abuse, DFCS notified etc...

All amendments are required to be electronically entered in DECAL KOALA effective August 2021.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment.

For centers conducting or planning on conducting transportation, please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors ensure that they also complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation and plan on conducting transportation.

**Beginning January 1, 2024, there is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS) as ProSolutions will no longer offer the class for free. Also, you will be able to find the Health and Safety Orientation Training, which will be 15 hours, for free as well.

Provided updated orientation checklist.

Share information regarding the indicator manual and utilizing it.

Updated Transportation forms as of October 1, 2023, to begin using immediately.

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion: Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff’s criminal records checks are not about to expire.

Discussed regarding mats no longer using tape to repair.

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.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-.03 Activities — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.03(1) - Please ensure that all classrooms have a current lesson plan available at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

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
Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

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(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observations that the following hazards were observed to be accessible:
-E Right Hall 2L: Wipes packaging, Wet Ones wipes, hand sanitizer, and Desitin were observed in a child's bag in the cubby area. There was also a tube of Blistex which had a choking hazard warning. Also, in an unused cubby, plastic grocery bag and wipes packaging which read keep out of reach of children were accessible.
-F: Right Hall 1L: Wipes packaging which read keep out of reach of children were accessible in children's bags in the cubby area.
-H: Left Hall 1L: Grocery bags were observed in children's cubbies.
-J: Left Hall 1R: A tube of Desitin was observed in a child's bag in the cubby area.

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. The items were removed during the visit. Staff will consider regarding a no bag policy.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

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 there was a four and a half inch gap at the bottom and five inches at the top of the double gated fence leading to the pool area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use. Staff will utilize playground checklist to include staff to inform management when something is in need of repair on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2024

Recited on 9/11/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the following areas did not have adequate resilient surface on the playground:
-Middle Playground: The swing area was observed to have three and a half inches on the back side and three inches on the front side, where six inches were needed. Also, there were two and a half inches of mulch on the sides of the blue curvy slide and two inches on the sides of the red tripple slide, where six inches were needed. Further, there were three and a half inches of mulch in the blue wall climbing structure where six inches were needed.
-Left PlaygroundL There were two to four inches of mulch on the side of the double blue straight slides where six inches were needed. Also, there were three and a half inches of mulch on the sides of the yellow slide where six inches were needed. Further, there were two and a half inches of mulch beneath the spiral blue slide where six inches were needed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency. Working on getting an estimated time of when the mulch will be here but will be completed by the deadline.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2024

Recited on 9/11/2024

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 hazards were observed on the playground:
-Middle Playground: There were exposed black drain accessible with holes in the swing area. Also, there were black drain with holes accessible in the climbing equipment area and there were holes in the mats which could cause a tripping hazard. Further, there was a cracked covering to the right of the swing area with sharp edges. Additionally, there were weeds throughout the mulch and a white and green strip hose that was accessible near the shaded area, close to the building.
-Left Playground: There were exposed black drain with holes near the bucket swings in both areas and weed under the climbing structure.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards. Staff will utilize playground checklist to include staff to inform management when something is in need of repair on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2024

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) **Not Met**

Comment
Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Finding
591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that Tylenol was observed in a child's bag in the E: Right Hall 2L classroom

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Please ensure that the physician's information is completed on the forms of children being transported. Also, ensure that the medical facility address the center uses is recorded on all forms.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2024

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 the unload was not recorded for children during the week of August 26, 2024, from Colham Ferry Elementary School.

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: 9/12/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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.
-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.
-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes, therapists, etc…has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.
-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.
-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.
-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or ensure that the individual is supervised at all times by a staff member who has a comprehensive records check if they do not have a records check on file.
-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff member who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR **Not Met**

Comment
Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #7 hired on November 20, 2023, did not have current evidence of CPR and First Aid on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2024

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Not Met**

Finding
91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #6, hired on July 27, 2022, did not have current evidence of ten hours of annual training for 2023.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2024

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
Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm’s length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.