



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: 7/9/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

CCLC-28062

SGMC Child Care Center

2306 Bemiss Road Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County
(229) 253-0509 sclark@valdostaymca.com

Regional Consultant

Lindsey Ray

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lindsey.ray@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1301

Valdosta, GA 31603

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.
07/09/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/13/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/07/2023	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
Main	A-infant-1's	One Year Olds	1	3	C	10	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play, Lunch
Main	B-3-4 years	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	10	10	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Centers, Outside
Main	C-3-4 years		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-1-2 years	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play
Main	E-infant-2 years	Infants	1	4	C	24	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 65			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 24			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	playground 1	7	C
Main	Playground 2	51	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study.

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.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 at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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Study

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that a child in the two year old classroom was playing with a purple and orange plastic car that was covered in dirt and debris. It was also observed in the infant room that the pink Costco feeding chair had a cloth covering that was covered in mildew.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.08(1)(a) - requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes a description of any special procedures to be followed in caring for the child, including any special services which the Center agrees to provide to a Child with Special Needs. Please ensure that children's records are complete.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

Facility

Correction Deadline: 7/17/2023

Corrected on 7/9/2024

.06(4) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed the ventilation exhaust to be operable on this date.

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 rug under the window next to the bathroom door was wrinkled and not tight and smooth as required by the department.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

Correction Deadline: 8/8/2024

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 a black backpack hanging in the three and four year old classroom had OFF bug spray and sunscreen in the front pocket accessible to the children.

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: 7/9/2024

Recited on 7/9/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that the following items were in need of repair:

-In the one year old classroom, the cabinets had chipped paint in multiple locations. Chipped paint was located on the back wall to the left and to the right of the exterior door. In the play area, the mirror in the dress up area had dried food and saliva.

-In the two year old room, the ventilation exhaust fan was covered in dust. There was chipped paint along the baseboard and on the wall under the window on the left side of the room and chipped paint along the window sill on all of the windows.

-In the bathroom of the three and four year old classroom, the air vent was coated in rust, mold was located on the wall behind the sink, there was chipped paint in the right corner and along the right wall.

-In the three and four year old classroom, the fire sprinkler was covered in dust as was the ceiling and the air conditioner vent.

-In the infant room, the cabinet doors under the sink had multiple spots of chipped paint.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

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. Please ensure that interior gates are closed before children enter the playground.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023

Corrected on 7/9/2024

.26(9) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The basket with standing water had been removed.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(f) requires that food for infants or children less than one (1) year of age be cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers shall be cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking. It was determined based on observation that children in the one year old classroom were served ham that was not cut into one-half inch pieces as required by the department.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that food for infants and children less than one (1) year of age is cut into pieces one-quarter inch or smaller and food for toddlers is cut into pieces one-half inch or smaller to prevent choking.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023

Corrected on 7/9/2024

.10(5) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed center staff attending to children throughout diapering.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023

Corrected on 7/9/2024

.17(7) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed proper hand washing.

Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023

Corrected on 7/9/2024

.17(7)(a) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed all children washing their hands after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 7/13/2023

Corrected on 7/9/2024

.17(8) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed proper hand washing.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)2 requires that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use. It was determined based on observation that the mats in the two year old classroom were not labeled for individual use.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that cots and mats are used by the same child daily and marked for individual use.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the mats in the two year old classroom were stored in the children's activity area and were not stored in a way to prevent children's access.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.09(1)(j) requires that for portability for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training, only the most recently issued determination letter is eligible for portability and must be ported electronically. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #14 was working as the lead teacher in the two year old room that did not have the most recently issued determination letter ported electronically as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Center may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Center does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I)-(VIII) requires the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii). It was determined based on a review of staff records that staff #1, #14, #29 and #52 did not have a credential or degree and did not have a professional learning plan on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's and ensure that the teacher's follow the plan.

Correction Deadline: 7/9/2024

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.