



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: 10/12/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:45 AM

Departure: 3:00 PM

CCLC-46538

Bemiss Academy Preschool

5111 Bemiss Road Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County
 (229) 474-4004 bemissacademy@hotmail.com

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

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rena.keene@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
10/12/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/14/2023	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
01/31/2023	Incident Investigation/Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
			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
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	16	C	28	C	40	C	Centers
Building 2	Room G - school age	Six Year Olds and Over	1	4	C	19	C	27	C	Transitioning, Lunch, Centers, Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 62			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 169							
Main	A- 6wks - 2 yrs	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	14	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play, Art
Main	B- 2 year olds	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	C- Private Pre-K	GA PreK	2	10	C	22	C	31	C	Music, Centers
Main	D - 3's & 4's	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	16	C	22	C	Centers, Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 67			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 169							
Total # Children this Date: 58			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 129			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 169				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	All Ages	64	C

Main	School Age Playground	56	C
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Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Inspection. This center is a three-star Quality-Rated Center.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/12/2023

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!

Kerry Laster, Program Official

Date

Rena Keene, Regional Consultant

Date



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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: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 8

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

Technical Assistance

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. Please be sure that all children's records include a telephone number for the child's doctor.

Correction Deadline: 10/12/2023

Correction Deadline: 7/24/2023

Corrected on 10/12/2023

.08(2) - Director stated that children's records have been updated and all children present have up-to-date immunizations.

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****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 Consultant's observation that bolts on the gates and fence surrounding the basketball goal area posed a protrusion hazard. Nine bolts were observed on the fence around the basketball goal and six bolts were observed on the posts holding the gate that protruded beyond two threads.

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 either cut all bolts to protrude less than two threads or install caps to prevent protrusion hazards for children using the playground.

Correction Deadline: 10/12/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

The lunch served during the visit included salisbury steak, rice, vegetables with cheese, tangerines and milk.

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.10 - Proper diapering procedures observed. Discussed with staff and director that when infants can hold their heads up, handwashing after diapering should be done using soap and warm running water rather than a single use cloth.

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**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**Met**

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2023

Corrected on 10/12/2023

.29(3) - Director states that any reports that are required to be made will be made. No incidents have occurred since the previous rule violation that requires reporting.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

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

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on a review of children's records and transportation records that three children were transported during the week of September 23, 2023, to September 29, 2023, and no written parental authorization was on file for the children. Child No. 5 and Child No. 6 are provided routine transportation to and/or from school and Child No. 6 is transported from home to the center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 10/13/2023

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 and staff statements that emergency medical information was not available on the vehicle for all children transported as follows:

1. Child No. was transported from Dewar Elementary School to the center after school the week of September 25, 2023 to September 29, 2023, and did not have the required emergency medical information on the vehicle while being transported.
2. Child No. 6 was transported to and from Dewar Elementary School to the Center before and after school during the week of September 25, 2023, to September 29, 2023, and did not have emergency medical information on the vehicle while being transported.
3. Child No. 8 was picked up from home and transported to the center the week of September 25, 2023, to September 29, 2023, and did not have emergency medical information on the vehicle while being transported.

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.

Correction Deadline: 10/13/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)	Met
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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 thirteen (13) files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided thirteen (1) files for employees hired since last visit.

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

591-1-1-.33(2) requires the initial Center orientation to include the following subjects: the Center's policies and procedures; the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; the Staff person's assigned duties and responsibilities; reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; emergency weather plans; the program's emergency preparedness plan; childhood injury control; the administration of medicine; reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); hand washing; fire safety; water safety; and prevention of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens. It was determined based on a review of staff records that six employees hired since last visit did not have evidence on file that showed that complete orientation as required by these rules were completed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide orientation in all missing subjects to the employee(s) and will take steps to provide a complete orientation to new Employees in the future.

Correction Deadline: 10/13/2023**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

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). Please be sure that professional development plans are on file for all employees who do not possess one of the required credentials at the time of employment. Be sure that each record contains documentation of any progress made toward the plan.

Correction Deadline: 10/12/2023**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.

