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: 12/4/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-53607
Kulima Montessori
130 Carnegie Place Fayetteville, GA 30214 Fayette County
(678) 772-8770 bridgettejwilliams@gmail.com

Regional Consultant
Neli Todorova
Phone: (770) 359-5167
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Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/04/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
09/13/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/08/2023	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	A- 1L	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	15	C	43	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Outside
Main	B- Back Left	Six Year Olds and Over	1	5	C	42	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transitioning
Main	C- Back Right	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	19	C	0	NC	NA	NA	
Main	D- 2R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	9	C	26	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	E- 1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap,Diapering
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 123			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 51		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 123			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A- 1 - 3 years	20	C
Main	B- 4+	117	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	**1 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years (Prekonly)**	**5 years and older**
2	3	4	2	3	0	28

Comments

The purpose of the visit is to follow up on previous visit and conduct a Licensing Study and Complaint Investigation. The investigation was not completed on the day of the visit. The Director will be notified once the investigation is complete.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 12/04/2024

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 Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR) — **Met**

Comment
Center does not provide swimming activities.

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

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**

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

Corrected on 12/4/2024
.25(13) - Previous citation was corrected as no hazards were observed accessible.

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

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.26(4) - Please ensure that the gap on the large playground (B-4+) gate facing the parking lot does not measure more than three and a half inches and that the pole on the top of the fence by the same gate is securely attached.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

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 observation that the red wooden play structure on the large playground (B-4+) had several areas of wood chipping, deteriorating and creating gaps that were compromising the structural integrity of the steps and bridge that was approximately two feet from the ground. Additionally, there were protruding long bolts at the bottom of the bridge and by the steps with the tyres.

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: 12/14/2024

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 and measurements that the resilient surface in the fall zones for the swings on both playgrounds measured at approximately half an inch then at least six (6) inches were required. The fall zones are measured by adding seven (7) feet to the length of the swing chain (measured from the top to the seat). The fall zones extend to the front and back of a stationary swing and need a minimum of six inches of resilient surface. There were no injuries or incidents.

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.

Correction Deadline: 12/14/2024

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2023

Corrected on 12/4/2024
.26(9) - Previous citation was corrected as the playground was observed to be clean and free of hazards.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.15(1) - Pleaase ensure that current Infant Feeding Plans are posted in the Infant Room.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.15(5) - Please ensure that the menu meets the USDA meal requirements. A handout was shared on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

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) — **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.10(1) - Please ensure that there are working exhausts in the Diapering rooms.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

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

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Comment
The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.16(f) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days prior to a change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on observation that the program is currently caring for Infants while the license was for children ages 13 months to School age. Additionally, room C-Back that was licensed as Special Use was observed to be utilized as a regular classroom for children ages three and four.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.21(3) - Please ensure that the drills are done and documented as required

Correction Deadline: 12/9/2024

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

Comment
Discussed reporting requirements.

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) **Met**

Comment
Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment
The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Finding
591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 requires that a crib mattress is firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least 2 inches thick and covered with a waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant. It was determined that the crib mattresses were not covered in waterproof washable material.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The center will ensure that a crib mattress is covered with waterproof material and is washable.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

Staff Records

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

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #5 with date of hire December 4, 2024 did not have a Satisfactory Background Check on file. Staff had submitted an application on October 23, 2024 that was not completed and the fingerprinting was not done. Staff was observed to be in the kitchen on the day of the visit. Additionally, Staff # 10 with date of hire March, 2024 did not have a Satisfactory Background Check on file. Staff had a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check under a different License number as of August 25, 2023 that was not ported as required and was no longer portable. Additionally, an application under a different license number was submitted on December 3, 2024 that was not completed. Staff was observed in room A-1L to care for children on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. 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 the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on review of records that Staff #5 with date of hire December 4, 2024 did not have a Satisfactory Background Check on file. Staff had submitted an application on October 23, 2024 that was not completed and the fingerprinting was not done. Staff was observed to be in the kitchen on the day of the visit. Additionally, Staff # 10 with date of hire March, 2024 did not have a Satisfactory Background Check on file. Staff had a Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Check under a different License number as of August 25, 2023 that was not ported as required and was no longer portable. Additionally, an application under a different license number was submitted on December 3, 2024 that was not completed. Staff was observed in room A-1L to care for children on the day of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. 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 to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

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 review of records that Staff # 1 and Staff # 6 had Satisfactory Comprehensive Background Checks under different license numbers that were still within portability but were not 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: 12/4/2024

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

Finding
591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on review of records that the Director and seven of 11 staff did not have evidence of current First Aid/CPR training on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 1/3/2025

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

Finding
591-1-1-.33(1) requires all Employees and Provisional Employees to receive Initial Center orientation prior to assignment to children or task. It was determined based on review of records that four stafff did not have evidence of Initial Staff Orientation on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and provide orientation for all new Staff prior to their staff's assignment to children or task.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on review of records that seven of 11 staff did mot have evidence of Health and Safety Orientation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 1/3/2025

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.33(4) - Please ensure that the Director and the cook have 4 hours of Nutrition Training.

Correction Deadline: 1/3/2025

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

Comment
Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

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) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.32(4) - Discussed with the Director that the approved Variance allows for children two-and-a half (2.5)years of age and potty trained to be mixed with children ages three and older based on Montessori practices and standards. Children younger that two-and-a-half years of age should be housed separately.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment
591-1-1-.32(7) - Discussed playground supervision and the need for staff to position themselves close to the equipment so they can respond promptly as needed.

Correction Deadline: 12/4/2024