



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: 11/6/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:30 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

CCLC-39560

Stepping Stones Early Development Center
125 Galan Drive Byron, GA 31008 Peach County
(478) 956-1438 Director@steppingstonesga.com

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

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.
11/06/2024	Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
10/29/2024	Complaint Closure	Deficient	
10/03/2024	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	B	Infants	1	3	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Nap
Main	C	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	25	C	35	C	Transitioning, Lunch
Main	D	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Nap
Main	E	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	F	Two Year Olds	2	9	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	G		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
Main	H	One Year Olds	2	7	C	11	C	NA	NA	Nap

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118

Total # Children this Date: 50

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 108

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	40	C
Main	Playground B	17	C
Main	Playground C	61	C
Main	Playground D	5	C
Main	Playground E	9	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
9	15	21	13	5	0	20

Comments

Plan if Improvement developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 11/21/2024

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.decga.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@decga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

Date: 11/6/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:30 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

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Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

Records Reviewed: 29

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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.

Facility

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Food Service**Records Reviewed: 29****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Correction Deadline: 11/5/2024****Corrected on 11/6/2024****.15(9) - Citation corrected.****Health and Hygiene****Records Reviewed: 29****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Handwashing requirements were discussed as the visit was conducted during nap time.

591-1-1.20 Medications(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on a review of records that a prescription medication (Focolon) was provided to a child September 26th-27th and October 7th-14th and the prescription number was not listed on the forms.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2024

Safety

Records Reviewed: 29

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Consultant discussed the transportation training is requietred by anyone who signs off on the book.

Correction Deadline: 11/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. requires that all transported children be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations and according to manufacturer's directions. It was determined based on observation that the center was using a booster seat in a Multi-Function bus and not the required child safety restraint for a four-year-old child.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that on November 4, 2024 and November 5, 2024 the center did not listed the dates for transportation provided to Byron Elementary, Eagle Springs Elementary and Kay Road Elementary.

Correction Deadline: 11/7/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Records Reviewed: 29

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24 Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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

Technical Assistance

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.

Technical Assistance

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

Consultant discussed that no items should be attached to the cribs. The center has a bib and a pacifier attached to the bottom of cribs with no infants.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2024

Staff Records

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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 a review of records that six staff members did not have documentation of orientation prior to being placed in the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2024

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 a review of records that one staff member hired in March of 2024 had a health and safety orientation that was completed more than a year prior to their hire date.

Correction Deadline: 12/6/2024

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.

Staffing and Supervision

Records Reviewed: 29

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/03/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/04/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/31/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

Staff # 24

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/06/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.24(1)-Evidence of Orientation Missing

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation that in Room A, the staff member was not seated when two-year-old children were eating but was observed to be standing. In Room D, an infant was eating and the staff members were not seated within arm's length of the child.

Correction Deadline: 11/6/2024