



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: 3/7/2024 VisitType: Monitoring Visit Arrival: 12:05 PM Departure: 2:00 PM

CCLC-20130

First Steps

96 Millenium Drive Cuthbert, GA 39840 Randolph County
(229) 310-7811 tshirey@voase.org

Regional Consultant

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

94 Millennium Drive
Mobile, AL 36695

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.
03/07/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/24/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/02/2023	Licensing Study	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
Main	Room A		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room C		0	0	C	26	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room D	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	30	C	NA	NA	Nap
Main	Room E	Six Year Olds and Over	1	1	C	28	C	NA	NA	TV
Main	Room F		0	0	C	30	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 141			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 7			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Area A - 6wk to 24 mth	117	C
Main	Area B - 2 to 5 yr olds	202	C

Comments

March 7, 2024--The Monitoring Visit was conducted on this date. The visit was discussed with new management.

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.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!

Theresa Shirey, Program Official

Date

Penny Svenson, Regional Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

Date: 3/7/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:05 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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.

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)

Met

Comment

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

591-1-1.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Defer

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the new Director to monitor the fence for gaps greater than 3 and one-half inches and to repair as needed so an entrapment hazard was not posed.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2024

Defer

The new Director stated there had been multiple directors in the last few months and they were working towards having all items repaired.

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. The rust will be painted as needed.

Correction Deadline: 9/3/2023

Defer

The new Director stated there had been multiple directors in the last few months and they were working towards having all items repaired.

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. The sharp edges will be covered with foam or chipped off so that sharp edges are no longer present. The ant bed will be treated and the center will continue to follow their protocol of marking ant beds with red paint and treating them. Lattice will be replaced to close the gaps; holes will be filled or closed; the silver covers will be painted; the exposed concrete will be covered with resilient surface and monitored to make sure it stays covered or will be covered with outdoor carpet; the wasp nest will be treated; all ant beds will be treated and continue to be monitored.

Correction Deadline: 3/29/2024

Recited on 1/1/0001

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

Please ensure soiled items are stored inaccessible to children.

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

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

Comment

Staff stated redirection was used for disciplinary purposes.

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) **Met**

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2023

Corrected on 3/7/2024

The Consultant discussed with the new Director the rules for safe sleep and that children of any age should not be allowed to sleep in a bouncy seat due to positional asphyxiation. Further, the Consultant discussed with the Director that infants, children under one-year old, should sleep in a crib and children one and older, should sleep on a state approved mat or cot.

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

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. The visit was conducted during nap time.