



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: 8/14/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:30 AM **Departure:** 5:55 PM

CCLC-53918

Heritage Early Learning Academy

328 Greene St Augusta, GA 30901 Richmond County
(706) 821-0034 hela@heritageacademyaugusta.org

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Kelena King

Phone: ()

Fax:

kelena.king@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Melyn Smith

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.
08/14/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/20/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/11/2023	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-Infants(Stars)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	B-Infants(Comets)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	C-One Year Olds (Caterpillar)		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	D-One Year Old (Butterfly)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Feeding, Nap
Main	E-Two Year Old (Acorn)	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Lunch, Transitioning
Main	F-Two Year Old- (Oaktree)	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Nap, Lunch, Transitioning
Main	G-Three year old- (Pathfinders)	Four Year Olds	2	16	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Main	H-Three Year Old (Seekers)	Three Year Olds	1	13	C	18	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning
Main	I-Four year old (Adventurers)	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	18	C	19	C	NA	NA	Lunch, Transitioning, Outside
Main	J-Four year old (Explorers)	Four Year Olds	1	16	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning, Lunch

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 134

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A-Infants	7	C
Main	Playground B-Two year old -Five year old	61	C

Comments

8/14/2024- The purpose of this visit it to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/14/2024

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.dec.al.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.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Living arrangements if not with both parents,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(1)(a)-Work Number Missing

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Living arrangements if not with both parents,.08(1)(a)-Name of both parents,.08(1)(a)-Work Address Missing,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(3)-Name of Release Person Missing

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Living arrangements if not with both parents,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Living arrangements if not with both parents,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

Child # 5

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers,.08(1)-Living arrangements if not with both parents,.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding**

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. It was determined based on a review of records the following children had items missing from their records:

- Child #1- Doctor's phone number, Living arrangements, Work address, Work phone number, and Work Phone number

-Child #2 - Doctor's phone number, Living arrangements, Work address, Work phone number, Work Phone number, and Address of Release to individuals

-Child #3- Doctor's phone number, Living arrangements, Address of Release to individuals.

-Child #4- Doctor's phone number, Living arrangements, Address of Release to individuals.

-Child #5- Doctor's phone number, Living arrangements, Address of Release to individuals.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2024**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)**Not Met****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 in Classroom J (Explorers) there was a container of Supersorb on the classroom sink the children use to wash their hands. It was further determined based on observation in Classroom G (Pathfinders) there was a box of gloves by the sink the children use to wash their hands.

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: 8/14/2024**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 observation that on the playground there was a wooden fence with a slat that was split and had a sharp point. It was further observed that there was a fence bordering a building with an air conditioning unit that measured 42.25 inches when the required is 48 inches. There was also two bolts on the gate leading into the playground that were protruding more than 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 train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024

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**

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.

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

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

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

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment**591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)****Met****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.

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
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Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.