



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: 10/1/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 2:30 PM **Departure:** 5:45 PM

CCLC-15964
Spirit Filled Academy
3898 Mulberry Drive Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County
(706) 562-0071 britad@bellsouth.net

Regional Consultant
Penny Svenson
Phone: (470) 346-1037
Fax: (678) 891-5613
penny.svenson@decal.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.
10/01/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Support	
05/01/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/14/2023	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	Room 1 1st left	Six Year Olds and Over	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Home work
Main	Gymnasium	Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	1	18	C	140	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	Rm 10 4th Right		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 5 3rd Right		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 6 1st Right		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 7 3rd Left		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 8 3rd Right		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	Rm 9 3rd Left		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 224					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 25			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 224			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG	60	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	0	4	0	27

Comments

The Monitoring Visit was conducted on this date. The findings were discussed with the Director.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 10/16/2024

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 Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms Met

Correction Deadline: 5/1/2024

Corrected on 10/1/2024

The Consultant discussed that a continuing effort be made to eliminate any strong odor of urine.

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 a storage closet was unlocked in the hall next to the kitchen and a lawn weed blower, other buckets of materials that had a hazardous disclaimer present on the container, and a strong odor of gasoline was present in the closet.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that these hazards were present in classrooms:

First classroom on the right: chipped paint and dirty walls throughout, frayed carpet in the center of the room

First classroom on the left: chipped paint and dirty walls throughout

Gym had stacked chairs present and an open popcorn machine that had kernels that did not pop present.

Further, the top to a basketball goal was propped against the bleachers. Also, the flooring was popped up in several areas of the gym floor.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

The Consultant discussed with the Director to continue monitoring each surface area on the playground equipment and to repair any areas that were rusted.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the brown material used to retain the resilient surface was pulled up throughout many areas of the playground area and a tripping hazard was posed.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2024

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Met****Comment**

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that children were observed to be transported to the center and did not wash their hands upon entering the building or after going to the bathroom. However, children were observed to wash hands after all children used the bathroom during a transition period.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2024

Recited on 10/1/2024

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Director to ensure any area used for children was licensed prior to use.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2024

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection were observed during the visit.

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)2. requires that the second designated Staff person conduct a check of the vehicle immediately upon the completion of the first check of the vehicle. The responsible person shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior; and sign the passenger transportation checklist(s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle. There shall be continuous watchful oversight of the vehicle between the first check and second check. It was determined based on a review of records that a second check was not conducted for the Fort Middle School afternoon route or the Downtown Elementary route conducted on September 25, 2024.

Correction Deadline: 10/1/2024

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

Met

Comment

Sleeping/Naps are not required for this program. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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.