



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: 1/25/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:50 AM

Departure: 2:20 PM

CCLC-28747

"In His Arms" Educational Center

7816 Hwy 80 East Savannah, GA 31410 Chatham County
(912) 897-6826 lipski@aol.com

Regional Consultant

Stacey Foston

Phone: (706) 806-0407

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stacey.foston@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

1511 Wathour Road
Savannah, GA 31410

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.
01/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/19/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/27/2023	Initial-TA	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 the 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	PreK back	GA PreK	2	18	C	15	NC	21	C	Circle Time
Main	Pre-K front	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	11	C	21	C	30	C	Circle Time, Free Play
Main	RM 1:1st Left	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	RM 2: 2nd Left	One Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	RM 3	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	RM 4: Infant	Infants and One Year Olds	1	6	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room 6	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	14	C	NA	NA	Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118					
Total # Children this Date: 60			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 103			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 118				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PGD 1-Right	97	C
Main	PGD 2-Middle	30	C
Main	PGD 3-Left	133	C

Comments

A Licensing Study was conducted on this date.

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!

Andrew Lipski, Program Official

Date

Stacey Foston, Regional Consultant

Date



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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

591-1-1.08 Children's Records Met

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

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 the front right classroom three batteries and push pins were in small bucket on the window sill.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The items were removed during the visit. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2024

Recited on 1/25/2024

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2023

Corrected on 1/25/2024

.25(3) - The previous citation was corrected. The center has covered the wires.

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

Not Met

Comment

The center is not currently using the front left playground and has no plans for future use. Discussed removing the playground from the center's license.

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 a review of records that there was chipped metal on one see-saw handle and rust around the bolts of two handles.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will replace the handlebars or remove the see-saw equipment. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 2/4/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15 - Discussed USDA guidelines and requirements. Please ensure all required components are served for each meal. Discussed USDA milk requirements. Unflavored whole milk must be served to 1 year olds; unflavored low-fat or fat-free milk must be served to children 2 through 5 years old; and unflavored low-fat, unflavored fat-free, or flavored fat-free milk must be served to children 6 years old and older and adults.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Met

Comment

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

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)**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 two children in room 3 did not wash their hands upon arrival.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2024

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

The Center has not dispensed medication since the last visit.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Comment**

Observed documentation that the Program completed emergency drills as required.

Safety

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

Age-appropriate discussion observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) - Discussed cleaning and sweeping the debris and wrappers on the vehicle floor. Also ensure the broom on the vehicle is not accessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2024**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 several seatbelts were twisted under the seat and could not be used in accordance to the manufacture directions.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The center will ensure the seat belts are in working order and able to be used by the children according to manufacture directions. The Center will ensure that manufacturer directions and state and federal laws are met when using child passenger restraining systems and seat safety belts.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(6) requires written Parental authorization for routine transportation provided by or on behalf of the Center. Written authorization must include the routine pick-up location, routine pick-up time, routine delivery location, routine delivery times and the name of any person authorized to receive the child. It was determined based on a review of records that 6 of 20 children did not have the parental authorization for transportation available for review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain the required written parental authorization.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of records that 6 of 20 children transported did not have emergency medical forms on the vehicle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2024

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 there was no signatures to indicate that the second check of the vehicle was completed for school transportation on the check list for January 16, 2024 to January 19, 2024. The staff did not sign that the second check was complete d after transportation to Marshpoint Elementary for the morning and afternoon of that week. .

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure staff complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2024

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

591-1-1-.30 - Ensure all children sleeping mats are at least two inches thick.

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

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-.14 First Aid & CPR	Met
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Comment

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training	Met
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Comment

Documentation observed of required staff training for the year 2023.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Not Met
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Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not have a current credential on file for staff #11.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The staff will renew their credential. The center will keep a copy of the credential on file.

Correction Deadline: 6/28/2024

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.