



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: 9/16/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI/LS on 09/16/2024

CCLC-1805

Backyard Buddies Daycare, Inc.

1308 North Isabella Street Sylvester, GA 31791 Worth County
(229) 776-9745 backyardbuddiesinc@yahoo.com

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

Phone: (404) 710-3984

Fax: (678) 717-5765

angela.williams-jackson@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/16/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing
09/16/2024	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
05/21/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation and licensing study visit. The allegations were substantiated.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, 591-1-1. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 9/16/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure
from CI/LS on 09/16/2024

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 2:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Organization	
591-1-1-.37 Inspections & Investigations	Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.37(e) requires the Center shall not make or condone any Staff to make a false or misleading statement to the Department in connection with any authorized investigation or inspection being conducted by the Department. It was determined that based on staff interviews a staff member made a misleading statement during an authorized investigation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will not make, or condone Staff to make false or misleading statements to the Department.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

Safety	
591-1-1-.05 Animals	Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.05(1) requires Center Staff to control animals to assure proper sanitation of the premises is maintained and animals are not a hazard to the children, Personnel or visitors. No animals, such as but not limited to, pit bull dogs, ferrets, and poisonous snakes, which may have a vicious propensity, shall be permitted on the Center premises at any time there are children on the premises. Horses or other farm animals shall not be quartered on any property over which Center Staff exercises any control that is located within five hundred (500) feet of the building in which the Center is located. It was determined based on staff interviews that there was a staff member's dog inside the center walking around the center that posed a hazard to children, scratching an infant on top of the head.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center Staff will control animals to maintain proper sanitation of the premises and will not allow this type of animal on the premises when children are present. The Center will house farm animals more than 500 feet from the Center's building.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024

Finding Associated with Complaint

591-1-1-.05(2) requires Center Staff to confine animals in pens or covered areas except during specific teacher-directed learning experiences and to keep animal pens and confinement areas clean. It was determined based on staff interviews that there was a staff member's dog inside the center walking around the center unconfined that posed a hazard to children, scratching an infant on top of the head.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain and keep animals in a suitable pen or covered area except when a teacher is using the animal in a specific learning experience. If needed, the pen or covered area will be cleaned and the Center will develop and follow a plan to keep the area clean.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2024