



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: 4/22/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:50 AM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

CCLC-53449

Kidz Korner - Downtown

75 Martin Street Dahlonega, GA 30533 Lumpkin County
(706) 864-5437 kidzplace@windstream.net

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4923

Fax: (770) 357-4922

dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

75 Martin Street
dahlonega, GA 30533

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.
04/22/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/27/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
12/27/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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-2yrs	Infants and One Year Olds	1	10	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap,Lunch
Main	B 6wks-2yrs	One Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	C Infants-2yrs	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	D 3yrs-12yrs	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	15	C	36	C	NA	NA	Outside,Transiti oning
Main	E 3yrs-12yrs		0	0	C	32	C	NA	NA	
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 87			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Playground Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 46		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 87			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	29	C

Comments

The purpose of the visit is to conduct a Licensing Study visit from December 27, 2024.

Reminders: Refer to the published communicable disease chart for guidance regarding communicable diseases. In most scenarios, only outbreaks/clusters should be reported to the local health districts.

Please be sure to contact the Lumpkin County Department of Health, if there are any outbreaks/clusters of positive COVID-19 cases immediately and get their guidance. Please be sure to also complete a Required Report in DECAL KOALA for all individual cases of communicable diseases within 24 hours. Be sure to select "Notifiable Communicable Diseases" to report closures for COVID cases.

You must be sure to enter all temporary closures by 8 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one day or more. Please be sure to SAVE the report prior to exiting.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director.

All amendments are required to be electronically entered in DECAL KOALA effective August 2, 2021.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment.

For centers conducting or planning on conducting transportation, please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors ensure that they also complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation and plan on conducting transportation.

**Beginning January 1, 2024, there is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI as ProSolutions will no longer offer the class for free. Also, you will be able to find the Health and Safety Orientation Training, which will be 18 hours, for free as well.

Provided updated orientation checklist.

Share information regarding the indicator manual and utilizing it.

Emailed updated Transportation forms including sample as of October 1, 2023, to begin using immediately.

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five year expiration.

Discussed regarding mats no longer using tape to repair.

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.decgal.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!

Sandy Sullens, Program Official

Date

Dianne Clarke, Lead 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-.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.03(1) - Please ensure that lesson plans are available at all times.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2024

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)**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 the following hazards were observed to be accessible in the following classrooms:

-C: In an unlocked cabinet under the diaper changing table, sunscreen, lotion, plastic bag, and diaper cream were accessible.

-D: There was diaper cream, plastic grocery bag, Wet Ones in children's bags. Also, in an unlocked closet, disinfectant wipes, wipes packaging, and plastic grocery bags were accessible.

-E: In an unlocked cabinet near the teacher's desk, adult scissors, Lysol spray were accessible. Also, a teacher's purse was sitting on a desk and the art drawer had adult scissors and stapler accessible. Further, there were two vacuums and an air purifier accessible.

:

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. Some items were removed and the cabinet locked during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2024**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 the bathroom in the hallway of D and E classroom was observed to be draining slowly.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 4/29/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 there were two holes on the playground that were in need of filling and accessible to the children on the playground.

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.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Not Met

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 the two first seatbelts in the third and fourth row was observed to not be working.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that manufacturer directions and state and federal laws are met when using child passenger restraining systems and seat safety belts. The two seats are not in use but will be repaired.

Correction Deadline: 5/7/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Please ensure that the information is completed on the medical emergency forms for all children being transported to include the physician's information and the emergency contact.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)1 - Please ensure to replace mats when the vinyl has worn.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2024

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.

-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes etc...has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date of the five year period. The center should submit a renewal 90 days before it expires.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or is supervised at all times by a staff with a comprehensive records check.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**Finding**

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation upon arrival to check ratios that there was a ratio of 1:10 with four one-year-old and six infants where 2:10 was needed in the A classroom. The staff stepped out of the classroom. Also, upon return to conduct the regulatory portion of the visit, the consultant observed a ratio of 1:14 two-year-olds in the C classroom as one of the teachers was with a child while they used the restroom located in the hallway from the classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2024

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.