



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: 9/18/2023 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-62068

**Application Services Unit
Coordinator**

Beginning Steps Daycare & Learning Center #2

806 Cherry Avenue Albany, GA 31701 Dougherty County
 (229) 449-4744 kaydencejr@yahoo.com

Brittany Sams

Phone: ()

Fax:

brittany.sams@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Angela Byrd

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
09/18/2023	Initial Licensing Study	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 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	Room A	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	11	C	Circle Time,Centers
Main	Room B	Infants	1	2	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room C	One Year Olds	1	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 22					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 25					
Total # Children this Date: 12					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 25					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Outside Playground	45	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 18, 2023. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. An in person Initial Licensing Study was conducted on September 18, 2023. The exit conference was conducted on site on September 18, 2023, with the Director. Permission to Operate will be issued on this date. Facility does not carry liability insurance. A sign is posted on the posted notice board. This facility has a capacity of 22 children and 3 addition children for 2 consecutive hours in the afternoon.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/18/2023

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Tonisha Miller, Program Official	Date
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Angela Byrd, Child Care Services Manager	Date
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Brittany Sams, Application Services Unit Coordinator	Date
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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured.

591-1-1.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-DOB Missing,.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers,.08(1)-Emergency Contact information
Missing,.08(1)-Allergies and Disabilities

591-1-1.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized. Please ensure all files have all forms completed in their entirety.

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center. The overall licensed capacity is 22 children. Consultant discussed the 25sq.Ft rule requirement. Program is allowed to have additional 3 children for 2 hours each day.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Met****Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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 that the fencing on the back side of the playground had thorny branches. Please ensure the thorny branches and vegetation are cut back and removed. It was observed on today that the top of the fence had protruding spikes. Please ensure these spikes are covered or removed so children do not get snagged/caught. It was determined that a black cord was seen on or around the fence area. Please ensure that this cord is removed to avoid children access.

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: 10/2/2023

Food Service

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.18(12) - Director and manager spoke with the center Director to ensure that children are not walking through the kitchen to enter or exit classroom C. Kitchen should be inaccessible to children at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/18/2023

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. Proper diapering procedures were discussed with staff 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**

Discussed medication documentation, administration and storage procedures.

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)**Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed. Currently the center is not providing transportation due to enrollment but all transportation training and vehicle requirements have been met. Consultant inspected 12 passenger van and is meeting all requirements. Comment vehicle information, insurance, first aid kit and fire extinguisher were observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use. Eight (8) cribs were present meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards as they were manufactured in 2011. Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the during the inspection visit.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete for five (5) center staff.

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****Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

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

A supervision plan was created on this date for playground & playground route, crossing of spaces, kitchen access and toddler loft space. Please see facility alert and supervision plan in state file.