



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: 1/22/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:30 AM

Departure: 12:00 PM

CCLC-3978

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center

141 Futral Rd. Griffin, GA 30224 Spalding County
(770) 229-5511 e.johns@steppingstonesschool.org

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@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.
01/22/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/16/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/27/2023	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	A-Left Hall	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	16	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	B-Left Hall	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	C-Left Hall	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	11	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D-Left Hall	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	N	GA PreK	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 45			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Plgd-Inf./ Preschool	42	C

Comments

Plan of Improvement was developed on this date.

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.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

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 user id 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!

Emily Johns, Program Official

Date

Brandi Mangino, 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)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the wooden shelves in Room D need to be secure so they do not pose a falling hazard.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

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

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing,.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that a full address is listed for the release person(s) and any allergies, medication and special conditions are listed or "N/A" placed in the area.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed having the vents checked in the restrooms to ensure proper ventilation.

Correction Deadline: 2/21/2024

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 accessible to children in care:

Room B:

in the classroom restroom: vacuum, broom and dust pan, floor cleaner

Room C:

in the classroom restroom Clorox, rubber gloves, and baby wipes
on the cubbies in the classroom a stapler was within reach
-hand soap at the sink that read "keep out of reach of children"

Room N: baby wipes and rubber gloves on a shelf within reach

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.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024**Recited on 1/22/2024**

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the 2nd Left gate had a gap approximately three inches that posed an entrapment hazard. It was further determined that the left side fencing was not meeting the four foot height requirements.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2024**Recited on 1/22/2024**

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that food not in the original container needs to be labeled as to their contact.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed the kitchen islands was in need of being repaired due to chipping material on the sides.

Correction Deadline: 1/22/2024

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/16/2023

Corrected on 1/22/2024

.17(7) - Citation observed to be corrected.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Correction Deadline: 8/16/2023

Corrected on 1/22/2024

.20(1) - Citation observed to be corrected.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices

Met

Comment

Please make sure that all required signs are posted and up to date.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

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-.33 Staff Training**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Please ensure that all staff have documentation of orientation before being placed in a classroom and is available for viewing at each visit.

Correction Deadline: 2/21/2024

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**

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.