



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: 4/16/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:20 AM **Departure:** 3:10 PM

CCLC-54749

High Hope Academy

2732 South Central Ave. Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County
(229) 387-0687 highhopetifton@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

Fax: (229) 238-2435

jackqueline.frederick@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

2321 Main Street
Tucker, GA 31794

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.
04/16/2024	Licensing Study	Deficient	
12/19/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/16/2023	Complaint Closure	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
Building 1	Room A	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 19			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Building 2	Room B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	16	C	19	C	27	C	Free Play
Building 2	Room C		0	0	C	17	C	24	C	
Building 2	Room D	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	8	C	31	C	NA	NA	Centers
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 51			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101			Building @35 capacity limited by Zoning		
Total # Children this Date: 32		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 70			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Building 1	Playground - A (Large)	35	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 04/30/2024

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.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 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.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined that classrooms A, B and D did not have current lesson plans as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

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

Finding

591-1-1-.06(4) requires a Center first licensed after March 1, 1991, and Centers that remodel or add to existing plumbing facilities, to have the bathroom area fully enclosed and ventilated to the outside of the building with either an open screened window or functioning exhaust fan and duct system and requires Centers without fully enclosed bathrooms to ensure there is adequate ventilation to control odors and adequate sanitation measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It was determined that the exhaust fans in Classroom D's bathrooms were not functioning as required.

Correction Deadline: 5/16/2024

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)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Please secure cleaning tools (i.e., broom, plunger) out of reach of children.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(13) - The center will ensure that hazardous items are inaccessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

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 consultant observation, there was a gap measuring five inches at the bottom of the fencing panel to the right when entering the playground. It was further determined based on observation that the fence on the large playground had a gap on the right side near the climbing structure posing an entrapment hazard. Additionally, the fence on the toddler playground measured forty-six inches on the left side in the second panel from the rear.

Correction Deadline: 5/3/2024

Recited on 4/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the Large Playground did not have adequate resilient in the fall zones as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2024

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 following hazards were observed accessible to children. A hole was observed on the right side of the building posing an entrapment hazard, as the venting grate had been removed and was laying on the ground. There were active ant beds on the left side of the ramp near the Toddler Playground. Additionally, there was a piece of raised wood was observed stuck in the ground on the toddler playground and an exposed root was observed on the large playground near the fence dividing both playgrounds, posing a tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.17(6) requires garbage and organic waste to be stored in containers that are lined with plastic liners and have tight-fitting covers. Trash and garbage shall be removed from the building daily or as often as necessary to maintain the premises in a clean condition. It was determined based on observation that trash cans in Classrooms A, B and D did not have tight-fitting covers as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.20(3) requires the Center to maintain a record of medication dispensed that includes the date, time and amount of medication, any noticeable adverse reaction, and the signature or initials of the person administering the medication. It was determined based on observation that the center failed to maintain adequate dispensing record for a child in care, as dates and times were not current as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that medication was stored in a child's book bag and was accessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.21(3) - Center will conduct lock down drills every six months.

Correction Deadline: 4/21/2024

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Met

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that the Black Van with tag number 'SEE9570' had paper and food on the floor. Additionally, the carpet was also observed to be torn and coming up in the rear of the van.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center.

It was determined based on a review of transportation records that on April 5, 2024, children were not marked for loading and unloading during transportation for J.T.Reddick Elementary. Additionally, on April 5, 2024, the unloading was not documented during transportation for Annie Bell Clark Elementary, Northside Elementary and Len Lastinger Elementary.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

Recited on 4/16/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the date and time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on observation that on April 5, 2024, the center failed to document return times for during transportation to Northside Elementary and Len Lastinger Elementary. On April 12, 20204, the center failed to document return times for Len Lastinger Elementary, Matt Wilson Elementary, G.O.Bailey Elementary, Charles Spencer Elementary, and J.T. Reddick Elementary. Additionally, on April 8, 2024, the center failed to document load/unloading and return times for transportation to R L Mack Elementary.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle 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; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of transportation records that on April 8, 2024 there was no documented evidence that a first check was conducted.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024

Recited on 4/16/2024

Correction Deadline: 12/19/2023

Corrected on 4/16/2024
.36(7)(d)2. - Citation observed corrected on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Comment

Cots were observed to be stored away from the children as required.

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.14(3) requires the Center to have a first aid kit in each building of the Center and in any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children, that contains scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, adhesive tape, thermometer, band-aids, assorted sizes, antibacterial ointment, insect-sting preparation, an antiseptic cleansing solution, triangular bandages, rubber gloves, protective eye wear, a protective face mask, and a cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff. It was determined based on observation that the center did not have a complete first aid kits as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2024

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on observation that three staff members did not have the required 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 5/16/2024

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. It was determined based on observation that a staff member did not provide watchful oversight for two children who walked out of Classroom B into Classroom C and were observed playing.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2024