



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: 10/23/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:45 AM Departure: 4:00 PM

CCLC-27901

B. W. Lester Head Start Center

2522 Copeland Road Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 247-9750 sedmond@cpheadstart.org

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458

Fax: (706) 434-7639

rena.keene@dec.al.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.
10/23/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/01/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/15/2023	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
Bld 2	RM C	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	19	C	NA	NA	Outside
Bld 2	RM D		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 38			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Main	RM A	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	14	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside, Lunch
Main	RM B	Four Year Olds	2	10	C	22	C	NA	NA	Story
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 33			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 79			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	125	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
0	0	0	15	18	0	0

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 10/23/2024

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



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

(Findings Report)

Date: 10/23/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:45 AM **Departure:** 4:00 PM

CCLC-27901

B. W. Lester Head Start Center

2522 Copeland Road Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County
(229) 247-9750 sedmond@cpheadstart.org

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458

Fax: (706) 434-7639

rena.keene@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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.

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

Corrected on 10/23/2024

.25(13) - Hazardous items were observed to be stored and kept inaccessible to the children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023****Corrected on 10/23/2024**

.26(4) - The fencing was corrected, but has now been damaged again by Hurricane Helene on September 24, 2024, and that playground is currently not in use. The insurance adjuster has visited the center and plans are underway to make the needed repairs.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023**Corrected on 10/23/2024**

.26(9) - The playground behind Building Two was observed to be in good repair and no hazards were observed. All of the children are currently using this playground. Due to damage sustained by Hurricane Helene on September 24, 2024, the playground behind the main building is not currently in use.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines. The lunch served during the visit consisted of ham, cabbage, sweet potatoes, macaroni, and milk.

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Comment

591-1-1-.15(11) - The center's meals are catered from Hallmark Heights Head Start. The most recent Public Health Inspection, dated March 7, 2024, was on file and showed a score of 100.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2024**Health and Hygiene****591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children enrolled in the program on this date who require diapering.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures. According to the Director, no medications have been administered since the new school year began in August, 2024.

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures**Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices**Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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)**Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

Corrected on 10/23/2024

.30(4) - Cots and bedding were observe to be stored in compliance with the rules.

Staff Records

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided seven (7) files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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 ongoing 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 a review of staff records and staff statements that Employee No. 22 did not receive the required ongoing training during the 2023 calendar year. This employee received only ten hours during the 2023 calendar year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 11/22/2024

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(1)(c) requires that a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the Director by the technical college, university, school or Department-approved trainer listed in 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2. (i) through (xiii) be maintained by the Center in the Director's file and such documentation shall be available for inspection by Department staff upon request. Please ensure that documentation of the required credentials are on file.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. Please ensure that documentation of required credentials is present in each Lead Teacher's file.

Correction Deadline: 10/23/2024

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)**Met****Comment**

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