



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: 11/1/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 4:40 PM

CCLC-27901

B. W. Lester Head Start Center

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

Regional Consultant

Lindsey Ray

Phone: (404) 478-4441

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 lindsey.ray@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Melissa Herndon

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.
11/01/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/15/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
11/16/2022	Licensing Study	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 and Four Year Olds	2	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Bld 2	RM D		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 38					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Main	RM A	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	3	12	C	19	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	RM B	Four Year Olds	2	12	C	22	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 41					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 36					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	125	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a licensing study. The program is a Head Start that does not provide care for infants or diapering children.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/01/2023

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

Jerry Mingo, Program Official	Date
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Melissa Herndon, Child Care Services Manager	Date
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Lindsey Ray, 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

591-1-1.03 Activities

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

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. Please ensure all classrooms have lesson plans.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

591-1-1.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.08(1) - requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. The consultant and the Lead FHA discussed information to be included in child's file.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

Facility

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

591-1-1-.06(7) - requires Center Staff to ensure bathrooms are cleaned daily with a disinfectant. Please ensure bathrooms are cleaned.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

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****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(11) - requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. Please ensure rugs are tight and smooth.

Correction Deadline: 12/1/2023

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 hazardous equipment and supplies were accessible to the children:

-In classroom A: a trash bag containing a toilet brush on the bottom shelf in the bathroom, in cabinet on the bottom shelf within reach of the children were alcohol wipes, 797-A powdered insecticide, NDC disinfectant cleaner, and DisCover disinfectant spray, on the top of the bookcase close to the door was a container of cottonelle flushable wipes.

-In classroom B: hand sanitizer on bottom shelf in bathroom within reach of the children.

In classroom C: on the bookcase next to the door were adult scissors, two staplers, a tape dispenser with a metal cutting strip. In the wooden cabinet in the bathroom were plastic bags, Clorox spray, and two bottles of DisCover spray disinfectant. In a plastic bag on top of a bookcase next to the sink were tubes of toothpaste that stated "keep out of the reach of children," On the left side of the room, under the sink were two hanging cords from the radio and charger. A fuse box with an unlocked door was located on the right side of the room.

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: 11/1/2023

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 on the main playground, the fence on the right side of the playground was not secured at the bottom causing the fence to protrude into the playground posing a hazard to the children in care. On the ground underneath the fence, a board that was splintered posing a hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff stated that a work order had been sent to the home office. 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: 11/1/2023

Recited on 11/1/2023

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 the main playground posed the following hazards:

- Spanish moss along the fence on the right side
- stumps along the fenceline
- broken gutter spout on the bottom of the pole on the right side of the canopy
- art easel with rusted bolts

The small playground posed the following hazards:

- Spanish moss on the fence
- blue plastic sticking out of the ground near the end of the walkway
- broken board under ramp exposing a gap and entrapment hazard

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: 11/1/2023

Food Service**591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.18(5) - requires the refrigeration of all perishable and potentially hazardous foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and served promptly after cooking. Freezer temperature shall be maintained at zero (0) degrees Fahrenheit or below. Please ensure thermometers are available for monitoring temperatures.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****N/A****Comment**

No children enrolled who require diapering. School age children attend only for after school hours.

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

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

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

Met

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)**

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that in classrooms B and C the cots were stored in a way that allowed the bedding to touch other cots.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will store cots and mats so children do not have access to them and they don't take up play space and will store them so each child's bedding is separate from the others.

Correction Deadline: 11/1/2023

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-.31 Staff(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. - requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. Please ensure all lead teachers have credentials or a professional learning plan.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.