



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: 9/11/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:35 AM Departure: 10:50 AM

CCLC-3978

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center
141 Futral Rd. Griffin, GA 30224 Spalding County
(770) 229-5511 b.hayes@steppingstonesschool.org

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
Phone: (478) 314-9726
Fax: (478) 599-0169
brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

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.
09/11/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/22/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/16/2023	Monitoring Visit	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	A-Left Hall	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	16	C	NA	NA	Feeding,Floor Play
Main	B-Left Hall	One Year Olds	2	8	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	C-Left Hall	Two Year Olds	2	5	C	15	C	NA	NA	Circle Time,Transitioning
Main	D-Left Hall	Three Year Olds	2	9	C	15	C	NA	NA	Story,Circle Time
Main	N	GA PreK	2	14	C	22	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 41		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 83			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

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

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	10	9	11	0	14	0

Comments

Plan developed on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/11/2024

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: 9/11/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:35 AM Departure: 10:50 AM

CCLC-3978

Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center
141 Futral Rd. Griffin, GA 30224 Spalding County
(770) 229-5511 b.hayes@steppingstonesschool.org

Regional Consultant
Brandi Mangino
Phone: (478) 314-9726
Fax: (478) 599-0169
brandi.mangino@decal.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)

Not Evaluated

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed checking restroom vents to ensure they are in working order and providing the circulation needed to meet rule requirements.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2024

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

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed that the electrical outlet under the built in table in Room C needs to be inaccessible.

Consultant discussed the bolt on the bottom of the toilet in Room C restroom need to be cut flush or have a cap placed on it.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2024

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:

adult scissors in a plastic container on the cubbies
staff bag in an unlocked cabinet
plastic bags and pull-up bag plastic bags in the restroom

Room C:

Ziplock bags in the cubbies
pull-up bags, plastic bags, Destin and Aquaphor within the restroom

Room D:

hole puncher, stapler remover and staples on top of the cubbies
hand sanitizer, baby wipes, diapers still in plastic bags

Room N:

staplers (4), hole puncher, and adult scissors (2) on the built in desk area

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: 9/11/2024

Recited on 9/11/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed that adding something around the poured surface to ensure that it does not pose a tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2024

Corrected on 9/11/2024

.26(4) - Citation corrected as the fencing was replaced. Consultant discussed adding something to the bottoms of the gates due to a gap that could pose and entrapment hazard.

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Comment**

Please ensure that bottles are covered and fully labeled with child's full name.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2) requires that a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age shall be obtained from Parent(s) and that instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the child's assigned room and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on a review of records that the following information was missing from infant feeding plans:
two of four did not have the parents initials or introduction to solid food information marked
two of four did not have the amount of formula the child was to be fed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis that will include center staff involved with enrollment and those working in the infant classrooms.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

Technical Assistance

Consultant discussed cleaning behind the stove for splitter and around the corners of the floors for dirt build-up.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2024

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****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Not Evaluated****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)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Not Evaluated****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.

Comment

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

Consultant discussed copies of degrees will be needed on file for leads.

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.