



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: 11/4/2024 **VisitType:** LS POI Follow Up

Arrival: 10:15 AM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

CCLC-3329

The Preschool Academy

2800 Atlanta Highway Athens, GA 30606 Clarke County
(706) 353-8183 the.preschool.acad@gmail.com

CCS Coordinator

Margarita Collier

Phone: (770) 342-7934

Fax: (678) 891-5989

margarita.collier@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.
11/04/2024	LS POI Follow Up	Deficient	
05/30/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
05/16/2024	Complaint Investigation & 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	1R	Infants	1	4	C	25	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap,Free Play
Main	2R	One Year Olds	2	8	C	24	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	3R Back	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	18	C	NA	NA	Music,Circle Time
Main	3R front		0	0	C	32	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Main	4R Back	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	13	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4R Front	Three Year Olds	1	10	C	35	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	5R left side	Four Year Olds	1	10	C	23	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	5R right side		0	0	C	18	C	NA	NA	Not In Use
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 188						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				
Total # Children this Date: 45						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground - A	44	C
Main	Playground - B	152	C
Main	Playground - C	8	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a licensing study visit and to follow-up on the previous visit conducted on May 16, 2024.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 11/19/2024

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.decal.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@decal.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 LS POI Follow Up:

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Parent agreements observed obtained/completed.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that parents update the following information as needed:

- Parents' work and personal contact information (telephone numbers and addresses).
- Release to persons' names, addresses, and relationship to the parent and child.
- Emergency contact persons' names, contact information, and relationship to the parent and child.
- Medical conditions and/or needs.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that hazardous items (i.e., diapering ointment, diaper wipes, etc.) are stored in a locked container and/or cabinet inaccessible to the children receiving care.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

Technical Assistance

Please ensure to monitor the vines on the opposite side of playground A and playground B to ensure that they do not grow through and around the fence.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined based on observation that a cockroach was observed on the floor of the center's lobby area next to the purple and white cabinet storage area. It was further determined based on observation that a live roach was observed crawling inside the double sink located on the back-left side of the kitchen. Dead gnats were observed throughout the refrigerator located on the front-right side of classroom 5R Right Side. While the refrigerator was observed to be on and running, no food items were stored in the refrigerator. Classroom 5R Right Side was observed to be vacant during the visit.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

Recited on 11/4/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined based on observation that the following items were in need of repair:

- Playground A - The red, green, yellow, and blue sliding structure was broken into three pieces located on the front-right side of the playground area. The green cover to the sand box contained cracks creating a potential pinching hazard located on the back-right side of the playground area.

- Playground B - The red, yellow, and green wooden ladder contained peeling tape exposing the rust on the bars.

No children were observed on the playground area during the visit due to inclement weather.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2024

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 black mats used for resilient surface underneath the yellow, red, and blue swings were not flush with the sand creating a potential tripping hazard. It was further determined that the green, red, yellow, white, and brown slide structures did not contain any resilient surface surrounding the fall zones of both slide structures located on playground C. The fall zones surrounding the slide structures were observed to be sitting on a green layer of turf with no cushion around the fall zones.

Correction Deadline: 11/14/2024

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 based on observation that the following hazardous items were observed on the playground areas:

- Playground A - A protruding stick was observed on the back middle side of the playground next to the yellow school bus. Exposed tree roots were observed on the front-left entrance and on the left side of the yellow school bus located on the back middle side of the playground.

- Playground C - Two spider webs, one bird nest, and a bee hive were observed underneath the covered porch located on playground C.

The exposed tree roots and protruding stick were observed to create a potential tripping hazard to the children. The bee hive, spider webs, and bird nest appeared to be inactive during the visit. No children were observed to be playing on the playground areas during the visit due to inclement weather.

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

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

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

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Technical Assistance
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591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)	Met
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591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)	Met
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Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Not Met
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591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)	Not Met
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Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

Finding
1. The company has not implemented a formal risk management framework. 2. The company has not conducted a comprehensive risk assessment. 3. The company has not established a risk appetite statement. 4. The company has not implemented a risk reporting mechanism. 5. The company has not established a risk culture.

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 the black trash can located in the second left restroom was uncovered and contained soiled pull-ups.

Correction Deadline: 11/4/2024

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Policies and Procedures

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

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.

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**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit was conducted on May 16, 2024.

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Evidence observed of 100% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Comment

Please ensure to replace the antibacterial ointment in the center's first aid kit.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

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)**Met****Comment**

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