



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: 8/28/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:15 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-56596

A Step Above Preparatory South

4195 Welcome All Rd SW Atlanta, GA 30349 Fulton County
(260) 760-4679 astepaboveprepsouth@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

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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.
08/28/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
05/15/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/12/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	AL-Infant	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Back F-Private Pre-K		0	0	C	16	C	NA	NA	
Main	BL-One and Two	Two Year Olds	2	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds	1	14	C	18	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	DL-Four year old		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Main	EL-Afterschool		0	0	C	63	C	NA	NA	
Main	HR-One year Old		0	0	C	12	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			151		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 36			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Afterschool	55	C
Main	Infant	13	C
Main	Toddler	7	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
4	10	21	16	2	0	21

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a monitoring visit and to follow up from previous visit.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/28/2024

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.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 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.al.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 Monitoring Visit:

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 based on observation that classrooms BL and CL did not have an updated lesson plan posted or available.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

Correction Deadline: 9/3/2024

Recited on 8/28/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.03(5)(a-k) requires the Center to provide a variety of activities that allow for: indoor and outdoor play; quiet and active periods; free choice and directed activities; individual and group activities; large and small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; music and movement; and nature and science. It was determined based on observation that a variety of activities such as arts and crafts; dramatic play; music and movement; nature/science, and manipulatives in classroom BL were not present as the shelves were empty besides one shelf located at the back door that had a few blocks.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of planned activities for all of the required activity areas.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024

Recited on 8/28/2024

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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: 5/15/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.25(13) - Previous citation of an aerosol disinfectant spray can located on the counter and was accessible in classroom BL was observed to be corrected on this date.

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 observation that the black gate that connects the playground had wires on the bottom middle of the gate that were not connected to the pole and were torn. It was also observed that the black gate that surrounds the air conditioning unit had torn wires on the top right side.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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: 9/16/2024

Food Service

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

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.15(3) - Previous citation of children's bottles located in infant room AL and were not labeled with the individual child's name was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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) 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 the trash can in classroom AL was filled with trash and did not have a lid to cover the trash can.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide the required containers and implement a plan to ensure that trash and garbage are taken out daily, or more often, if needed.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.17(7) - Previous citation of a child entering classroom CL and not washing their hands was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed staff reminding children to wash their hands.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

N/A

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.36(3)(a-b) - Previous citation of staff not having two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training while driving at the facility was observed to be corrected. Per the director, the staff is no longer driving and is not employed at the facility.

Correction Deadline: 5/17/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.36(7)(a) - Previous citation of drivers name not being on the transportation form was observed to be corrected. Consultant observed transportation forms filled out entirely with names and per the director, transportation started the first week of August.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) requires that all sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged to avoid obstructing access to exit doors, to provide the caregivers access to each child, and to prevent children's access to cords hanging from window treatments and other hazardous objects. To reduce the transfer of airborne diseases, sleeping and resting equipment shall be arranged as follows. There shall be a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment. There shall be a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment. Children shall be placed on cots and mats so that one child's head is toward another child's feet in the same row. It was determined based on observation that the cribs in classroom A did not have the minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will arrange and place sleeping and resting equipment according to the requirements in the rule; will train Staff; and will monitor for continued compliance.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) **Met**

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

Comment

Complete first aid kits observed in center.

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Met**

Correction Deadline: 5/27/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.24(1) - Previous citation of staff not having a file for review was observed to be corrected on this date. Consultant observed files for all staff.

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

Comment

Please ensure completed orientation checklists are documented and signed.

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

Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024

Corrected on 8/28/2024

.31(2)(b)3.(iii) - Previous citation of no lead teacher credentials was observed to be corrected. Facility has new hires and professional development plans were observed in staff files on this date.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(1) - Ratios were discussed with the director on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(7) - Supervision was discussed with director on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/28/2024