



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: 9/10/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 2:40 PM **Departure:** 6:00 PM

CCLC-39223

Hoke / McNeal Academy of Higher Learning

3055 River Oak Mews Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(404) 635-8354 joyscrutchings@hokemcnealacademy.com

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@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.
09/10/2024	Licensing Study	Support	
06/21/2024	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
06/18/2024	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	A-3-5 Years	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	3	4	C	16	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 16			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							
Total # Children this Date: 4			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0							

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Outside	35	C

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

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on September 10, 2024 with the Director Joy Scrutchings. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 09/24/2024

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.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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.state.ga.us 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 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

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Correction Deadline: 7/18/2024

Corrected on 9/10/2024

.08(2) - Citation corrected. The Consultant observed immunization records complete.

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(12) - The Consultant discussed with the Director that heating and cooling equipment must be protected to prevent children from touching it. Fans, space heaters, etc. shall be positioned or installed so as to be inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

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 a review of records that the following hazards were observed:

A

- Sanitizer on the left shelf.
 - Sanitizer on the brown table.
 - Gorilla glue on the cubby.
 - Cutters bug spray on the shelf
-
-
-
-
-
-

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

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 protruding nail were observed throughout the fence.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

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 the horizontal climber and the multi-colored climbing play structure did not have the required six inches of resilient surface beneath and in the fall zone of the equipment.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Recited on 9/10/2024

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 hazards were observed:

- A metal ladder was observed accessible on the deck area.
 - A rake and wheel barrow were observed on the left side of the shed.
 - Bug spray observed on top of the tables.
 - A plastic trash bag was observed near the tables.
 - A metal ladder was observed attached to the right side of the climbing structure.
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-
-
-
-
-
-

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Recited on 9/10/2024

Food Service

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

Met

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://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(2) - The Consultant Discussed with the Director that Center to have a designated space for food preparation separate from rooms used by children and in an area not used for diaper changing. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. Food preparation surface areas shall be nonporous with no unsealed cracks or seams.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2024

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

No children enrolled who require diapering.

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

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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.

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.

Correction Deadline: 6/28/2024

Corrected on 9/10/2024

.36(3)(a-b) - Citation corrected. The Director stated that the program does not provide transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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**Records Reviewed: 3****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Staff # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 1 did not submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site prior to being present at the site.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on observation that staff # 1 did not have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that the Director did not have evidence of the four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2024

Recited on 9/10/2024

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 on-going 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 consultant's review of records that all supervisory and caregiver Personnel had not completed the required 10 hours of annual training for the year 2021 as required.

It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 2 did not completed the required 10 hours of annual training for the year 2023 as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2024

Recited on 9/10/2024

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.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.32(7) -The Consultant discussed with the Director that children must be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.

Correction Deadline: 9/10/2024