



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: 12/8/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:20 AM **Departure:** 2:10 PM

CCLC-53079

First Step Learning Academy

1213 North Liberty Street Waynesboro, GA 30830 Burke County
 (706) 535-4251 kpressley@augustaga.gov

Regional Consultant

Kaycee Purvis

Phone: (770) 357-4915

Fax: (404) 478-8085

kaycee.purvis@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal

Mailing Address

2612 FARMERSBRIDGE RD
 Waynesboro, GA 30830

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
12/08/2022	Licensing Study	Deficient	
10/14/2022	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
08/22/2022	Incident Investigation Closure	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- (1L) 1's & 2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	6	C	12	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	B- (2L) 4wks- 18 mths	Infants and One Year Olds	1	3	C	6	C	NA	NA	Free Play, Floor Play
Main	C-(2R) 3 yrs		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	D- (1R) 4 yr-12yrs	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	2	6	C	19	C	NA	NA	Centers
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks				
Total # Children this Date: 15			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A - 4 wks - 12 years	44	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 12/22/2022

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!

Kenneth Pressley, Program Official

Date

Kaycee Purvis, Consultant

Date

Kesha McNeal, 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) - The Consultants and Director discussed ensuring that lesson plans are posted in each classroom.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(4) requires that equipment and furniture is secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. It was determined based upon observation that there was a table stacked upside down on top of a second table in Classroom A. It was further determined there were two sets of stacked chairs in Classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(1)-Doctor, Clinic, Phone Numbers

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****Finding**

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. It was determined based upon a review of records that Child #4 was missing the name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022**Evening Care****591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

No evening care hours provided

Facility**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****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 upon observation that the rubber baseboard was peeling from the wall in the back right corner and back middle of Classroom A. It was further determined that there was a hole in the wall outside the bathroom in Classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 12/23/2022

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Not Met

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 upon observation that there was a rusted chair on the Playground on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/18/2022

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 upon observation that there were four blocks of exposed concrete under the yellow merry go track and four blocks of exposed concrete under the yellow and purple bouncy seats on the Playground on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2022

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****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 upon a review of records that Child #2 did not have a written feeding plan as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

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

591-1-1-.18(5) - The Consultants and Director discussed ensuring that the freezer and refrigerator have a thermometer in order to determine an accurate temperature.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.17(2) requires that Personnel, to the extent possible, keep children clean, dry and comfortable. It was determined based upon observation that three children in Classroom A did not have shoes on. It was further determined that one child in Classroom A did not have on pants on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

Comment

Program observed complete emergency drills

Safety**591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.11(1) - Discipline shall include positive guidance, re-direction, and setting clear-cut limits that foster the child's ability to become self-disciplined. Staff should use discipline methods that are age-appropriate, clear and understandable to the child. Disciplinary measures shall be consistent and shall be explained to the child before and at the time of any disciplinary action. The role of the caregiver is to help children develop self-control and appropriate relationships with peers and adults. Caregivers should show children positive alternatives rather than just telling children "no". Observe written policies and procedures for evidence of appropriate guidance and discipline techniques. Observe staff: child interactions to determine if staff uses positive discipline. The Consultants and Director discussed ensuring that Staff do not use time out for children two-years-old and younger.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.11(2) - The Consultants and Director discussed ensuring staff do not handle children roughly. Appropriate ways to pick up children was further discussed.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

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)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based upon observation that there were three out of five crib sheets not tight fitting on this date. It was further determined that there was one crib sheet not clean with visible stains on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based upon observation that there was an infant asleep in a swing in Classroom B for approximately ten minutes on this date.

[illegible]

Staff Records

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Met
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591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 10/14/2022

Corrected on 12/8/2022

.09(1)(a) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed valid and Satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letters for staff on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2022

Corrected on 12/8/2022

.09(1)(c) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed valid and satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letters for staff on this date.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Met
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591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)	Met
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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)	Not Met
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591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based upon observation that Classroom D housed one two-year-old child with three three-year-olds, one four-year-old, and one five-year-old children.

[illegible]

Finding

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children 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. It was determined based upon observation that a child walked out of Classroom D into Classroom C to give the cook a box of cereal. Staff in Classroom D stated that the child was their helper.

Correction Deadline: 12/8/2022