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: 9/11/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:25 AM **Departure:** 7:00 PM

CCLC-57459

Big Blue Marble - Athens

2400 Daniels Bridge Rd. Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
(706) 369-3070 center50@bbmacademy.com

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4923
Fax: (770) 357-4922
dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/11/2023	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/29/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing
06/28/2023	Complaint Closure	Good Standing

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.

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	Room 1 - 1L	Infants	2	7	C	19	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,Nap
Main	Room 2 - 2L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	19	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Floor Play
Main	Room 3 - 3L	One Year Olds	3	8	C	21	C	NA	NA	Diapering,Outside,Lunch
Main	Room 4 - 4L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	25	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Free Play
Main	Room 5 - Mid Left	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	27	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Lunch,Transitioning
Main	Room 6 - Mid Right	Two Year Olds	2	7	C	26	C	NA	NA	Nap,Free Play
Main	Room 7 - 3R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	4	C	30	C	NA	NA	Story,Nap
Main	Room 8 - 2R	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	48	C	NA	NA	Transitioning,Nap
Main	Room 9 - 1R	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	40	C	NA	NA	Centers,Art
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 255			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					
Total # Children this Date: 74		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 255			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	26	C
Main	B	66	C
Main	C	49	C
Main	D	81	C

Comments

Reminders: Refer to the published communicable disease chart for guidance regarding communicable diseases. In most scenarios, only outbreaks/clusters should be reported to the local health districts.

Please be sure to contact the Gwinnett County Department of Health, if there are any outbreaks/clusters of positive COVID-19 cases immediately and get their guidance. Please be sure to also complete a Required Report in DECAL KOALA for all individual cases of communicable diseases within 24 hours. Be sure to select “Notifiable Communicable Diseases” to report closures for COVID cases.

You must be sure to enter all temporary closures by 8 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, holidays etc…) in DECAL KOALA at all times under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is closed temporarily because you are not caring for children for one day or more. Please be sure to SAVE the report prior to exiting.

Incident Reports are to be submitted via DECAL KOALA with all signed staff statements for staff and the director.

All amendments are required to be electronically entered in DECAL KOALA effective August 2, 2021.

Please be sure to hide staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

Please ensure that director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment.

For centers conducting or planning on conducting transportation, please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for everyone, including the director. Please ensure that directors ensure that they also complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation and plan on conducting transportation.

Share information regarding the indicator manual.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/11/2023

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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

Christy Foulk, Program Official	Date	Dianne Clarke, Lead Consultant	Date

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: 9/11/2023 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:25 AM **Departure:** 7:00 PM

CCLC-57459

Big Blue Marble - Athens

2400 Daniels Bridge Rd. Athens, GA 30606 Oconee County
(706) 369-3070 center50@bbmacademy.com

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4923
Fax: (770) 357-4922
dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study 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 a review of records that six of nine classrooms did not have current lesson plans 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: 9/11/2023

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**

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(1) - Please ensure that all information is completed on their enrollment forms at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.08(6) - Please ensure to remind parents to ensure that they are signing their children in and out daily.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

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(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 classrooms were observed to have hazards accessible:

-Room 4-4L: Sunscreen was observed in a child's bag and was accessible.
-Room 5- Mid Left: A staff's purse was accessible in the bathroom.
-Room 6- Mid Right: There was A and D ointment, lip protection sunscreen, two wipes packages, and sunscreen observed in children's bags. Also, the broom and dust pan and dry mop were accessible.
-Room 8 - 2R: Sunscreen was observed to be accessible in a child's bag.
-Room 9- 1R: Plastic grocery bag and underwear package which read keep out of reach of children were accessible in children's bags.

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. The staff removed the items during the visit. The staff will check bags daily.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that water stains on the ceiling is repaired immediately.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

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

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

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(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that a child did not wash their hands upon exiting the bathroom and the teacher did not remind them to.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance. During their meeting will ensure to review handwashing with teachers and will conduct monthly.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.17(8) - Please ensure that staff are washing hands with water after diapering.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.20(4) requires the Center to keep medication in a cabinet or container that is locked or otherwise not accessible to the children and to be stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leak-proof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that an Asthma inhaler was found in a child's bag in the Room 6- Mid Right classroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff on the safe and proper storage of medication and monitor to ensure that the rule is met. Staff will ensure to check bags daily.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023

Policies and Procedures

591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.21(3) requires that the Center conduct drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Center shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the lock down and review of emergency procedures were not conducted since 2022.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will hold the drills as required and keep the documentation of the drills on file for two years. Will ensure to utilize the most updated form and complete drills according.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2023

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) **Met**

Comment
Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

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

Finding
591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #4 hired on June 13, 2022, did not have current evidence of transportation and participates in transportation checks.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

Correction Deadline: 9/21/2023

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(6) - Please ensure that the times that children are picked up and dropped off are recorded on the transportation agreement forms at all times.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Technical Assistance
591-1-1-.36(7)(b) - Please ensure that physician's information is completed at all times on the medical emergency forms.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(c)3. requires that the driver or other designated person document in writing the time of arrival and departure each time the vehicle departs from the Center, is loaded or unloaded at each school and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle departs from the Center, arrives at the location where any child is picked up or dropped off and when the vehicle returns to the Center; each time the vehicle leaves the Center, arrives at a field trip destination, leaves a field trip destination, and returns to the Center. It was determined based on a review of records that the departure, load and unload and return to the facility time were not recorded during the week of September 5, 2023, on Friday from High Shoals Elementary School.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that each time of arrival and departure is documented by the driver or designated person with training, review and monitoring. Discussed that staff will check the checklist at the end of the night to ensure it is completed.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.36(7)(d)1. requires that the first check be conducted immediately upon unloading the last child at any location including, but not limited to, a field trip destination, arrival at the Center, and the last stop during transportation to home or school. The responsible person on the vehicle shall physically walk through the entire vehicle; visually inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle’s interior; sign the passenger transportation checklist (s), indicating all of the children have exited the vehicle; and give the passenger transportation checklist(s) to the second designated Staff person. It was determined based on a review of records that the driver did not record the first check during the week of September 5, 2023, on Friday from High Shoals Elementary.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff who are or may be involved in transporting children in how to thoroughly inspect a vehicle and properly complete transportation documentation. The Center will review and monitor. Discussed that staff will check for completion nightly.

Correction Deadline: 9/12/2023

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.
-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.
-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes etc…has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.
-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.
-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.
-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home.
-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #12, hired on March 30, 2023, did not have current evidence of CPR and First Aid training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and CPR training present and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and CPR training by the specified date.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2023

591-1-1-.24 Personnel Records **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.24(1) requires the center to maintain a personnel file on the Director, all Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other Support Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and it shall contain the following: identifying information to include: name, date of birth, social security number, current address and current telephone number; employment history; as applicable to the position held: evidence of education and qualifying work experience; evidence of all training required by these rules which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; a statement completed by the staff member that the information provided is true and accurate; any other records required by these rules; and as applicable to the position held, evidence of required orientation including date and signature of person providing the orientation; It was determined based on a review of records that the following staff did not have evidence of their application and their ten year work history available:
-Staff #1, hired on July 17, 2023
-Staff #3, hired on July 31, 2023
-Staff #9, hired on September 5, 2023
-Staff #13, hired on July 17, 2023
-Staff #14, hired on August 21, 2023
-Staff #19, hired on August 15, 2023
-Staff #20, hired on September 6, 2023
-Staff #22, hired on August 28, 2023
-Staff #23, hired on September 11, 2023
-Staff #27, hired on June 26, 2023

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will secure required information for all Personnel. The Center will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2023

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that the following staff were missing evidence of their Health and Safety Orientation training:
-Staff #2, hired on January 9, 2023
-Staff #5, hired on April 10, 2023
-Staff #12, hired on March 30, 2023
-Staff #16, hired on July 11, 2022
-Staff #25, hired on May 18, 2023

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required. The director will ensure that staff will complete training by the correction deadling.

Correction Deadline: 10/11/2023

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2 requires the Director to possess at least one of the sets of minimum academic requirements and qualifying child care experience listed in Rule 591-1-1-.31(1)(b)2.(i-xiii). It was determined based on a review of records that staff #6, hired on June 13, 2022, did not have evidence of their education credential.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will ensure that the Director meets the minimum education and work requirements and secure the necessary documentation. The director will work obtaining on paraprofessional certificate.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2023

Finding
591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2. requires teachers and lead caregivers to meet minimum academic requirements and qualifying experience at the time of employment. It was determined based on a review of records that staff #2, hired on Januay 9, 2023, did not have evidence of having enrolled in an education credential.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
A teacher/lead caregiver will be hired that meets the minimum academic requirements and qualifying work experience.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2023

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) **Not Met**

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 on observation that staff in the Room 5- Mid Left classroom was observed to not be sitting within arm's length with the two-year-old children during lunch time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Center will train Staff and monitor to ensure they are providing supervision and watchful oversight to the children at all times. Discussed with the director regarding having two staff present during mealtimes in classrooms with children under three.

Correction Deadline: 9/11/2023