



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: 5/15/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:20 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 astepaboverepsouth@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Shameka Dozier

Phone: (770) 857-7010

Fax: (770) 357-7009

shameka.dozier@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.
05/15/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/12/2023	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
04/12/2023	Complaint 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	AL-Infant	Infants	1	5	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	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	15	C	21	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	CL-Three year old	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	15	C	18	C	NA	NA	Centers
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: 35			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:		151		Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			
							0			

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

Comments

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

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 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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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: 5/15/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:20 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

Phone: (770) 857-7010

Fax: (770) 357-7009

shameka.dozier@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

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: 5/15/2024

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 the two shelves located near the back door on both sides of classroom having a few blocks and a number counter.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024

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.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records**Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

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)**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 an aerosol disinfectant spray can was located on the counter as it was accessible and stated to keep out reach of children in classroom BL.

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.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26(9) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that all trash is removed from the playground area.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2023

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.15(2)(a) - Previous citation of two infant children under 6-months laying in a bouncy with a bottle propped was was observed to be corrected on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that the children's bottles located in infant room AL were not labeled with the individual child's name.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.15(5) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that the menu listing all meals and snacks is current.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(10) - Consultant discussed with director to ensure that all trash cans in the kitchen have lids and are emptied and cleaned as needed.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

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(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 entering classroom CL did not wash their hands.

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.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****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)**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 review of records that staff #6 did not have two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training as it was stated that they have driven for the facility.

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: 5/22/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(a) requires that each vehicle contains current information including: the full names of all children to be transported, each child's pick-up location, pick-up time, delivery location, alternate delivery location if a Parent is not at home and name of person authorized to receive each child. In addition, the vehicle shall contain current information identifying the Center's name, telephone number and the name of the driver of the vehicle. It was determined based on review of records that the school transportation form for Fickett and Cliftondale Elementary School did not have the name(s) of the driver(s) of the vehicle listed for the entire month of May.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that the Center's information and the children's information is included on each vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 5/17/2024

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Please ensure that cribs/cots are labeled for individual use.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(d) - Consultant discussed with provider to ensure that all cribs have a minimum of twenty-four inch (24") corridor between each row of sleeping or resting equipment and a minimum of twelve inches (12") between each piece of sleeping or resting equipment in each row of equipment.

Correction Deadline: 5/15/2024

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2023

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.30(2) - Previous citation of an infant sleeping in a crib with a blanket and bib was observed to be corrected on this date.

Staff Records

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 and on vehicles.

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 review of records that when the director was asked for staff files, they were not provided as the director stated that staff #2, #3, #4, #6, and #10 did not have personnel files.

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: 5/27/2024

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1.31(2)(b)3.(iii) requires the Center to maintain the lead teacher's professional development plan in the file and available for inspection by Department staff upon request. It was determined based on review of records that a professional development plan was not on file for employee(s) #3 , #4, and #11 as they all were identified as lead teachers.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain professional development plans in the staff file and make the plan available upon the Department's request.

Correction Deadline: 5/22/2024

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2023

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.32(1) - Previous citation was observed to be corrected as classroom BL and CL had the appropriate staff to child ratio on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2023

Corrected on 5/15/2024

.32(4) - Previous citation of classroom CL having two-year-olds in the same classroom with three-year-olds was observed to be corrected on this date.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.