



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

Cover Sheet

Date: 1/31/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 11:15 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

CCLC-50717

Stepping Stones Child Learning Center

1267 Noel C. Conaway Road Guyton, GA 31312 Effingham County
 (912) 728-8942 steppingstoneschildlearning@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Haley Carwile

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haley.carwile@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.
01/31/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/19/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
02/04/2021	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
I	A, infants	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	7	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play
I	B, Toddlers		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
I	C	One Year Olds	1	7	C	15	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 91							
II	D	Two Year Olds	1	10	C	12	C	NA	NA	Nap
II	E	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	10	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 29			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 91							
III	F	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	13	C	15	C	22	C	Nap, Transitioning, Lunch
III	G	Four Year Olds	1	14	C	16	C	23	C	Lunch, Nap, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 31			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 91							
Total # Children this Date: 59			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 91			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 91				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
I	A	7	C
I	Playground B	42	C

Comments

Ar docs due February 7, 2022.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/31/2022

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.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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



Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>

Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

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), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

Megan Boucher, Program Official

Date

Haley Carwile, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 1/31/2022 VisitType: Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:15 AM

Departure: 1:00 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

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

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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 on observation that in Room F, the faucet on the left sink was broken and easily moved.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2022

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 on the big playground, by the bench backing up to the three and four-year-old rooms, was a hole posing a possible tripping hazard. In addition, there was a seven inch hole under the middle gate on the big playground, posing a possible entrapment hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2022**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 in Rooms F and G there was no soap, therefore children could not wash their hands with soap as required.

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: 1/31/2022**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****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)(b)4 requires that a light cover be available for each child's use on a cot or mat and shall be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that in Room D (twos) that all children were napping on cots without sheets as required. In addition, in Rooms E, F, and G, some children did not have sheets on their cots as required. It was observed that the other children brought a nap roll from home to nap on.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that a light cover is available for each child and will meet the requirements for laundering.

Correction Deadline: 1/31/2022**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 9****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 12/15/2020	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 07/25/2018	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 02/04/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 01/26/2021	
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 01/15/2021	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 07/12/2021	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 08/02/2021	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 11/20/2019	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 4**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Director provided five files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

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)	Met
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Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.