



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: 1/10/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:40 AM

Departure: 12:30 PM

CCLC-39492

Little Scholars Learning Academy

5536 Flat Shoals Parkway, Suite B Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(470) 385-6115 littlescholars5536b@gmail.com

Process & QI Unit Consultant

Stacy Whitten

Phone: (770) 405-7920

Fax: (404) 478-8021

stacy.whitten@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.
01/10/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/05/2024	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
09/15/2023	Licensing Study	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 - 1R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Nap
Main	B - 1L	Two Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	C - 2R	Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds	1	11	C	11	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	D - 3R	Three Year Olds	1	6	C	8	C	11	C	Art
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 35					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 64					
Suite A	1st Left		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Suite A	Back Center		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Suite A	Entrance		0	0	C	11	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 26					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 64					
Total # Children this Date: 27					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 64					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A - Left	37	C
Main	B - Right	34	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Monitoring Visit and follow up on previous rule violations. A Quality Assurance Visit was conducted on this date, as well.

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.al.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.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Tameka Sims, Program Official

Date

Stacy Whitten, Process & QI Unit Consultant

Date



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(Findings Report)

Date: 1/10/2024 VisitType: Monitoring Visit Arrival: 9:40 AM Departure: 12:30 PM

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(4) - Discussed with Director/Staff to monitor and ensure the small aquarium is secured with heavy velcro or strap once it is filled to ensure a tipping hazard does not become present. Also discussed with Director to monitor the small black shelf in classroom D (3R) / three-year-olds where chipping is developing and remove or repair or repaint, as needed.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

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

Met

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Please monitor bathrooms for necessary supplies.

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25 - Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children. Consultant discussed storage of wipes and packaging as well as plastic grocery bags on this date. Please ensure all wipes, wipe packages, grocery bags and other hazards are monitored and stored inaccessible to children.

Comment

Center appears clean and well maintained.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.25(3) - Discussed with Director to monitor and ensure the flooring baseboard in classroom 1L/ two-year-olds is secured to the wall, where it is becoming detached. Also discussed with Director to monitor and ensure the ceiling tiles in suite A where rust is developing.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2024

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 an observation that the following areas of fencing were not in good repair on this date:

-fencing on the right side was observed to be detached from the poles in four areas, creating four gaps of more than three and a half inches

-fencing on the right side was observed to be detached from the ground and could be pushed open, creating an entrapment hazard ; one hole was observed present in the fencing, measuring more than three and a half inches, and two areas had loose, exposed metal pieces with sharp edges

-fencing in the back playground area was observed to be detached from two poles, creating a gap of more than three and a half inches

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 1/24/2024

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 that the resilient surfacing under the swings and large slide measured three inches on this date, when six inches was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

Correction Deadline: 1/20/2024

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(9) - Discussed with Director to monitor the exposed concrete by the fencing and the cement area on the playgrounds, and ensure the ground is flush with the cement areas, and no exposed concrete is present. Also discussed with the Director to monitor the plastic irrigation piping throughout the playgrounds where it is developing cracks and cover, repair or replace so no broken edges are present as well as the wooden decking and outdoor window sills for chipping paint and repair or repaint as needed.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2024

Food Service

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

Met

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on an observation that two infants in classroom 1R (infants) had pacifier attachments connected to their clothing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2024

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.10 - Discussed with the Director to remove the diaper table from classroom 3R since it is not a diapered classroom.

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Not Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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 an observation that one bottle of Zarbies Children's Cough medication and one bottle of saline nasal spray was stored in a child's backpack in the hallway, on a low hook, accessible to children.

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.

Correction Deadline: 1/10/2024

Safety

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

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(f)1. - Consultant discussed with Director to review transportation laws for booster/carseats and ensure all children are in the appropriate size booster seat if they are age eight-years-old and under and less than 80 lbs and 4'9 inches tall.

Correction Deadline: 1/11/2024

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Correction Deadline: 9/15/2023

Corrected on 1/10/2024

.30(1)(a)2 - Correction of the previous citation in that consultant observed crib mattresses and sheets to be tight fitting on this date. Please continue to monitor the crib sheets to ensure they remain tight fitting at all times.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete. Consultant discussed with Director to monitor the CBC letters as two staff will be expiring within the next six months.

Comment

Director provided one file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2023

Corrected on 1/10/2024

.14(3) - Correction of the previous citation in that all vehicles were observed to have complete first aid kits on this date.

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.

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

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.

