



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: 4/25/2024 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:10 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

CCLC-37198

Head of the Class Learning Academy #1

2294 Wellborn Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058 DeKalb County
(770) 987-1311 headoftheclass1@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Christina Jennings

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christina.jennings@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.
04/25/2024	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/25/2023	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
08/01/2023	Incident Investigation/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	9	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	B/2R	Two Year Olds	2	11	C	16	C	NA	NA	Art
Main	C/3R	One Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	D/R Rear	Four Year Olds	1	10	C	18	C	NA	NA	Outside
Main	E/L Rear	Three Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	F/Front Entrance	GA PreK	2	15	C	26	C	NA	NA	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Total # Children this Date: 70

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 104

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	PG/Front	18	C
Main	PG/Rear	51	C

Comments

The purpose of this visit to conduct a CI/MV.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 04/25/2024

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

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!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.12(2) requires that all equipment and furniture be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint; and be kept clean. It was determined based upon observation that the following hazards were present causing the equipment to not be in good repair and accessible to children:

Classroom C:

- The top right corner of the toy shelf had water damage.
- Four out of four of the legs on the activity table were not properly secured.

Classroom E:

- The doors to the oven were broken and not properly closing on the pink and white play kitchen.
- The sink was missing the sink insert on the pink and white play kitchen.
- There was an exposed screw protruding over two threads where the faucet was intended to be on the pink and white play kitchen.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure that equipment and furniture are used by the age-appropriate group of children.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2024

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.

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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children:

Classroom B:

- Two toilet scrub brushes in the children's restroom.

Unlocked Staff Bathroom in the back left corner of Classroom F:

- One gallon of Clorox Bleach.
- One gallon of Member's Mark Degreaser.
- One gallon of Fabuloso floor cleaner.
- One box of Clorox Toilet Wand toilet cleaner refills.
- One can of Scrubbing Bubbles bathroom cleaner in an unlocked cabinet under the handwashing sink.
- One can of Comet cleaner with bleach.

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: 4/25/2024

Recited on 4/25/2024

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 children's hand washing sink had water damage around the corners and bottom of the cabinet in Classroom B. It was further determined that the left bottom corner of the door leading to the Playground was lifting causing the corner to have a sharp edge in Classroom B.

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: 5/10/2024

Recited on 4/25/2024

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2023

Corrected on 4/25/2024

.26(4) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the top of the fencing to be secured on this date.

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 the following playground hazards were observed:

Rear Playground:

- A cracked splintering wooden piece on the top right of the large play structure.
- The corners of the black rubber mats at the bottom of the front yellow slide on the large play structure were lifting and not flush with the ground causing a potential tripping hazard.
- The corners of the black rubber mats at the bottom of the back yellow slide on the large play structure were lifting and not flush with the ground causing a potential tripping hazard.

Small Front Playground:

- Four out of four metal poles connected to the blue canopy had chipping paint.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 5/10/2024

Recited on 4/25/2024

Correction Deadline: 8/1/2023

Corrected on 4/25/2024

.26(9) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the playground to free of litter and free of hazards on this date.

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 upon observation that a two-year-old's hands were not washed with liquid soap and warm running water immediately after wiping their nose 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: 4/25/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based upon observation that a staff member did not immediately wash their hands after assisting a two-year-old child wipe their nose with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2024

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Paperwork, checklist, permission forms, annual inspection form and proper check of the vehicle after transportation were discussed with the director.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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-.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**

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

The following information is associated with a Complaint Investigation Visit:

Staffing and Supervision

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

Correction Deadline: 7/20/2023

Corrected on 4/25/2024

.32(7) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that center staff stated how staff members provided watchful oversight on this date.